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TRAVELS

THROUGH

FRANCE, TURKEY, AND HUNGARY,

TO

VIENNA,

IN 1792.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Several Tours in Hungary,

IN 1799 AND 1800.

IN A

Series of Letters to his Sister in England.

BY

WILLIAM HUNTER, ESQ.

OF THE INNER TEMPLE.

THIRD EDITION.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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TO THE

FIRST EDITION.

WHY these Travels were not published sooner, or why they are published now, is of so little consequence to those who may do me the honour of reading them, that I shall neither waste their time nor my own by entering into an explanation of my reasons. All that is incumbent on me to declare is, that they were written on the spot whence the respective letters are dated, and, with very trifling variations, in the form which they now wear. As far as regards the information which they contain, I have, in every respect, adhered as strictly to the truth as my own observation and

the intelligence of others have enabled me. I am at the same time sensible, how much a traveller through foreign countries lies at the mercy of the natives, and how liable he is to be imposed on by their exaggerations. After having said thus much, if it should appear, that I have fallen into any erroneous statement of facts, I must hope that the candour of my readers will attribute it to those misrepresentations which sometimes unavoidably mislead the most accurate inquirers, and not to any wilful design to deceive.

London,
March 24, 1796.

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TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

THE encouragement which the first edition of this work received from the Public, has induced me to exert every effort in my power to render the republication of it more worthy of their candour and patronage. I have had leisure to collect, and arrange, several notes and observations, immediately appertaining to the subject of these letters, which, in the hurry of their first appearance, were either very much abridged, or totally omitted: and, where I have had any suspicions respecting the ve-

racity of oral communications, I have spared no pains in consulting authors, on whose acknowledged credit and authenticity, I was satisfied I might, with security, depend. The notes, which were already published, I have been enabled, with a little alteration, to incorporate with the text; and I have embellished the present edition with a portrait of the reigning grand seignor, and a map of the countries I visited, which, I trust, on examination, will be found distinct and correct. On the subject of French politics, I have been obliged to make some trifling additions, by way of explanation to my sentiments which have been misunderstood, or willingly misinterpreted; for I should be as sorry to be considered the enemy of liberty, as the friend of France: they are both equally reproachful and degrading.

The promulgation of opinions adverse to this gigantic republic is, I know, considered by many as an hazardous act. It possibly may be; though I have no such fears. Her malice is unbounded; but her means are not commensurate. Should these enemies to the human race be adventurous enough to attempt the invasion of this kingdom, I think I may venture to predict, that they will be repelled with ignominy and ruin. We have, at present, a military force, more than adequate to our defence against any hostile power, and our seas are protected by an unconquerable navy. Independently of these bulwarks, where is the man who is base enough to sit still, and behold his country ruined, his laws subverted, his property pillaged, his friends, his parents, his children, his wife, at the merciless

disposal of a fierce and inexorable band of professed savages, who unite, to the infuriate zeal of barbarians, the arts of civilization, and the knowlege and discoveries of modern times. We have had time to reflect, and, profiting by that reflection, we shall know how to act. We have had an opportunity of contemplating our enemy, and of becoming acquainted with the baseness of their views, and the malignity of their detestable principles. They can no longer mislead us by plausible promises, and metaphysical arguments: our eyes are now open. We both understand, and despise, their new philosophy, and their new liberty. They have convinced the world, that the one is built upon atheism, and the other is supported by the most flagrant and opprobrious tyranny. Wherever they have carried

their desolating arms, pillage and massacre have attended on their march. They have dissembled first, that they might plunder with security after. Their smiles and their flattery, wherever they have succeeded, have been the forerunners of confiscation, ruin, and death. I feel, from my soul, for those unhappy countries which are governed by French laws, and galled by French chains—chains which they have not now even the charity to gild. Let Great Britain look to Holland, to Italy, to Germany, to Spain, to Switzerland, to any spot of the known globe where either their arms or their principles have penetrated, where they have come either as professed enemies or *professed friends*, and, in their destiny, read her own, if she does not act up to the character she has hitherto sustained.

Her history is almost the history of laurels gained from France; and I am satisfied that she will, in this most afflicting and desperate of all her struggles, assert her former dignity and prowess. Terrible as the French have been to the rest of Europe, they cannot injure us, if we oppose them manfully and with sincerity. Some have openly deserted the standard of allegiance, and some have published, both in the senate and from the hustings, doctrines and opinions highly injurious to the interests of the state. But these are few, compared with the number who still remain faithful and entire, and who, if the contest should ever come to the last melancholy crisis, will, I trust, have energy to crush both their internal and external foes. It is still a subject which admits of much concern, and

stands in need of all our vigilance, and fortitude, and virtue. We can only reason from the analogy of ordinary events; we cannot follow Fortune in her eccentricities and aberrations. These are critical and eventful times; and occurrences have happened, in the course of this long and fatal warfare, which have startled the most speculative minds, and far outstripped the wildest theories of conjecture. It is also impossible to penetrate into the all-wise and immutable decrees of Providence, which frequently effects its purpose by the most mysterious means. But, whatever may be the conclusion of this disastrous and precarious period, it is my sincere and fervent wish to abide by the fate of my country; and I am confident that I utter the sentiments of almost every

man who has the advantage of living under the British constitution, when I declare, that I have no wish to survive its duration.

LONDON,
May 1, 1798.

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TO THE

THIRD EDITION.

To the present edition of these Travels I have added several Tours in Hungary, (commencing at page 219 of the second volume) which were performed, as will be seen by the dates, in the years 1799 and 1800; and, as many parts of that interesting country, which I have now attempted to describe, have not, I believe, been touched on by any other English author, I should hope that this additional matter will be favourably received.

London,
April 20, 1803.

ITINERARY.

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
				Feb.	
From LONDON to					
Dover		73*	T.	14	
Boulogne			W.	15	Arrived at Boulogne, after a passage of 12 hours. We remained there till 2 o'clock the next day.
Samers	2	9	T.	16	
Cormont	1	5			
Montreuil	1½	7¾			
Nampont	1½	8½			
Bernay	1	5½			
Nouvion	1	5			
ABBEVILLE	1½	8¼			Slept.
Ailly	1½	7½			
Flixcourt	1¼	6¼			
Pecquigny	1	6¼			
AMIENS	1½	7¾	F.	17	Dined.
Hébécourt	1	6			
Flers	1	5½			
Breteuil	1½	7¾			Slept.
Wavigny	1½	6½			
St. Just	1	4½			
Clermont	2	9½			
Linguevilie.....	1¼	6			

* With regard to the distances in English miles, I have always, when I have had an opportunity, availed myself of Duten's Itinerary, which I have found very useful, and, on the whole, extremely correct. It is a book which every traveller ought to be in possession of.

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths	Cursory Remarks.
				Feb.	
to *Chantilly*	1½	8	S.	18	Dined.
Luzarches ...	1¼	6¼			
Ecouen	1¼	7			
St. Denis	1¼	5			
PARIS	1	6			Arrived at Paris, where we remained till the following Friday.
Charenton ...	1		F.	24	
Villeneuve ...	1¼				
Lieursaint ...	1½	37			
MELUN	1½				
Fontainebleau .	2				
Nemours	2	10			
La Croisière .	1½	7½			
Fontenay	1	5			
Puits-la-laude	1	5½			
Montargis ...	1	5			Slept.
La Commodité	1	6½			
Nogent	1	5			
La Bussière .	1½	7½			
Briare	1½	9	S.	25	Dined.
Neuvy	2	12			
Cosne	1¾	9½			Slept.
Pouilly	1¾	10			
LA CHARITE'	1½	9			
Pougues	1½	8			
NEVERS	1½	8½			Dined and slept.
Magny	1½	7½			
St. Pierre-le-Moutier ...	1½	7			
St. Imbert ...	1	5½			
Villeneuve ..	1	5			
MOULINS ...	1½	8	M.	27	Dined.
Bessay	1¾	8			
Varenne	1¾	10			
St. Gerand-le-Puy	1½	7½			
La Palisse ...	1	5½			Slept.
Droiturier ...	1	5			

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
				Feb.	
to St. Martin d'Estreaux -	1	5			
La Pacaudiere	1	5½			
St. Germain Espinasse	1½	6½			
ROANNE	1½	7½	T.	28	Dined.
L'Hôpital ...	1	5			
St. Symphorien	1	5½			
La Fontaine .	1	7			
Tarare	1½	7			Slept.
Les Arnas ...	1½	7			
LaTour de Salvagny	2	10			
Lyon	1½	7	W.	29	Arrived at Lyons, where we remained till Friday.
St. Fond	1	5½			
St. Symphorien	1	6		March	
VIENNE	1½	9	F.	2	Breakfasted.
Auberive	2	10			
Le Péage	1	4½			
St Rambert .	1½	7			
St. Vallier ...	1½	7½			
Tain	1½	8			
Valence	2½	11½			Slept.
La Paillasse ..	1½	7			
Loriol	1½	7			
Laine	1½	7½			
Montélimart ..	1½	7			
Donzère	2	11			
Pierrelatte ...	1	5			
La Palu	1	5			
Mornas	1½	8			
Orange	1½	7	S.	3	Slept.
Courthezon ..	1	6			
AVIGNON ...	2½	13	G.	4	Dined.
Rémoulins ...	3½				Slept.
St. Gervasy ..	1				
NISMES	1	30	M.	5	Dined.

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths	Cursory Remarks.
				March	
to Curbossot . . .	1½				
Tarascon	1½				We were obliged to sleep at Beaucaire on the other side of the Rhone, arriving there too late to cross the river in the ferry-boat.
		40			
St Remy . . .	2				
Orgon	2		T.	6	Dined.
Le Pont Royal	2	11			
St. Canât . . .	2	11			
Aix	2	12			Slept.
Le Pin	2	10			
Marseille . .	2	10	W.	7	Arrived at Marseilles, where I remained till the following Tuesday *.
Posts	139½	801¼	Miles.		
Milo			F.	30	Arrived at Milo, where I remained till the 3d of April.
				April.	
Smyrna			F.	6	Arrived at Smyrna, where I remained till the 25th.

* My principal view in noticing the places at which we dined and slept, is to shew, in some measure, the rate at which we travelled, and to point out our method of dividing our journey.

Names of Places.	Hours.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
			April	
From SMYRNA to Yakai *	3	W.	25	Slept.
MAGNESIA ..	6			
Palamout	4	T.	26	Do.
Kalembeh ...				
Alkapana (wood)	13	F.	27	Do.
Geulgouck ...	4	S.	28	Breakfasted.
Mendahoura .	8			Slept.
In a wood ...	7	G.	29	Dined.
Chiltikui	6			Slept.
Maarlitch ...	6	M.	30	Dined.
Chatalaga ...	7		May	Slept.
Chechirgui ...	5	T.	1	Breakfasted.
BRUSA	1			Arrived at Brusa about mid-day, where we remained till the next morning.
In a field	10	W.	2	Dined.
Yalova	10			Embarked at Yalova about six o'clock in the morning, and after a sail of eleven hours, arrived at Constantinople, where we remained till the 10th.
CONSTANTINOPLE		T.	3	
Hours.	90			We travelled from Smyrna to Yalova, on an average, at the rate of about 3½ miles an hour. The number of hours we were on horseback amounts to ninety. The distance must therefore be about 315 English miles †.

* All travellers, I observe, spell the names of the Turkish villages in a different manner. I have adopted that which to my ear most resembles the Turkish pronunciation.

† Not having a Pedometer with me, I am obliged to trust to calculation.

Names of Places.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
		May	
From CONSTANTINOPLE to Bujukderé	T.	10	Slept.
Cavarna	S.	13	Arrived at Cavarna, where we remained till the 15th.
Delenibeh	T.	15	Slept.
Valaleh	W.	16	Do.
Cajarmari	T.	17	Do.
Rassovat	F.	18	Arrived at Rassovat, where we remained till the 20th.
			From Cavarna to Rassovat, we travelled about seven hours a day, and about three miles an hour.—The intermediate distance will therefore be about 84 English miles.
Ibrail	T.	22	At Ibrail our boat remained at anchor all night.
Galatz	W.	23	ArrivedatGalatz,where we remained till the 5th of June.
		June	
Scherbest	T.	5	Dined.
Peneo			Slept.
Serbenest	W.	6	Dined and slept.
Suray	T.	7	Dined.
Fokshan			Arrived at Fokshan, where we remained till the 9th.
Tirkukoli	S.	9	Slept.
Rimnick	G.	10	Dined.
Marachini			Slept.
Buseo	M.	11	Dined.
Marzinin			Slept.
Craltza	T.	12	Dined.
Aformatzi			Slept.

Names of Places.	Hours	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
to BUCHOREST		W.	13	Arrived at Buchorest, where we remained till the 18th.
				From Galatz to Buchorest, reckoning seven travelling days at eight hours a day and four miles an hour, the intermediate distance will amount to 224 English miles.
Floresti	5	M.	18	
Guyesti	6			Slept.
Petesti	4	T.	19	Breakfasted.
Batcheski ...	3½			
Rimnic	8	W.	20	We were obliged to sleep in our carriage at a small village on the eastern side of the Alt, arriving too late to pass the river in the ferryboat.
Luctri	6			
Kineni	3			
Lazaretto of Tour Rouge	1½			Arrived at the Lazaretto of Tour Rouge, where we were obliged to perform a quarantine of ten days.
Hours	37			From Buchorest to Tour Rouge, we travelled at the rate of about six miles an hour.—The number of travelling hours amounts to 37.——The distance must therefore be about 222 English miles.

Names of Places.	Posts.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
			June	
From the Lazaretto of Tour Rouge to HERMANSTADT ..	3	S.	30	Dined and slept.
Magh	1			
Reismark	1			
Mullenbach	1			
Schiboth	1			
Szaszvaros	1½			
Deva	1½			
Lesnek	1			
Dobra	1			
Croszed	1			
Rossova	1			
Faszed	1			
Boschur	1			
Lugos	1½			
Szinerszeg	1			
Kesveres	1		July	
TEMESWAR	2	T.	3	Breakfasted and dined.
Klein Petzkeret ..	1			
Czadat	1			
Komlos	1			
Mokrin	1			
Klein Kanischa ..	1½			
Segedin	2			
Szatmacy	1			
Kistelch	1			
Petery	1			
Felegyhaza	1			
Paka	1			
Ketschkemet	1			
Foldeak	1			
Oerkeny	1			
Inares	1			
Ocsa	1			
Sarokfar	1			
BUDA	1½	T.	5	Dined and Slept.
Vorosvar	1			
Dorrogh	1½			
Neudorf	1			
Nesmuhl	1			

Names of Places.	Posts.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
			July	
to *Comorn*	1			
Ais	1			
Gony	1			
Raab	1			
Hochstrass	1			
Wieselburg	2			
Rakgendorf	1			
PRESBURG	1½	S.	7	Breakfastedanddined.
Altenburg	1			
Rögelsbrun	1			
Fischament	1			
Schwechat	1			
WIEN	1			
Posts	60½			The number of Posts from Tour Rouge to Vienna amounts to 60½. Reckoning,on an average, nine English miles to each post, the distance will be 544½ English miles.
			Augt.	
From VIENNA to Laxenburg	1	W.	28	
Windpassing	1			
Gros-Höfelein ...	1			
Oedenburg	1			Dined.
Esterhaz	1½			Slept.
Wieselburg	3	T.	29	Dined.
Hochstrass	1½			
Raab	1			Slept.
Comorn	3	F.	30	Dined.
BUDA	5½			Arrived at Buda, where we remained till the 10th of September.
			Sept.	
St. André	1			
Vissigrade	1	F.	6	Dined.
Watzen	1			
Dunakezy	1			
BUDA	1			
Kerepes	1½	T.	10	

Names of Places.	Posts.	Days	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
			Sept.	
Bagh	1½	T.	10	
Hatwan	1			
Gyongyosch	1½			
Kapolna	2			
Erlau	1½			Slept.
Meszo Kovesd ...	1			
Harsan	1½			
Mischkolz	1			
Diosgyor	½	W.	11	Slept.
Szikszo.....	1			
Forro	1			
Hidas Nemethy ..	1½			
CASCHAU	1½	T.	12	Slept.
Jasso	1			
Schmölnitz	2	F.	13	Arrived at Schmölnitz, where I remained till the 15th.
Hegyen	½			Dined.
Igló	½	G.	15	Slept.
Leibitz	1			
Gros Lomnitz	1	M.	16	Dined and slept.
Hradek	2	T.	17	Arrived at Hradek, where I remained till the 19th.
Gros Lomnitz ...	2	T.	19	Arrived at Gros Lomnitz, where I remained till the 22d.
Leutschau	1	G.	22	Dined.
Sans Souci	½			Slept.
Kirchdorf	1			
Berthot	1			
Eperies	1	M.	23	Slept and Dined.
In a wood	1½	T.	24	Slept.
Schmölnitz	1½	W.	25	Dined and Slept.
Azilas	3	T.	26	Slept.
Akteleg	1½	F.	27	Dined.
Tornalya	2			Slept.
Rimazombath	1½	S.	28	Dined.
Seleny	1			
Gacs	1			
Vamos	1			Slept.
Vigles	1			

Names of Places.	Posts.	Days.	Mths	Cursory Remarks.
			Sept	
Neusohl	1½	G.	29	Arrived at Neusohl, where I remained till
			Octr.	the 2d of Oct.
Kremnitz	1½	W.	2	Dined and slept.
Stuben-baad	1	T.	3	Breakfasted.
Schemnitz	1			Dined and slept.
Bath	1½			
Vamos Sadany ...	1			
Zelitz	1			
Kemend	1			
Gran	1	F.	4	Dined and slept.
Dorrogh	1			
BUDA	2½	S.	5	
Martin Wascho ..	2	S.	12	Dined.
Stuhlweissenburg ..	2			Slept.
Fured	4½	G.	13	Slept.
Tihan	½	M.	14	Dined.
Fured	½			
Stuhlweissenburg ..	4½			Slept.
BUDA	4	T.	15	Arrived at Buda, where I remained till January 9, 1800.
VIENNA	18			
Posts	122			Reckoning, on an average, nine English miles to each post, the distance in English miles will be 1098.
			Ma	
From VIENNA to PRESBURG	5	T.	11	Dined and slept.
Aes	7½	W.	12	Slept.
BUDA	6½	T.	13	Arrived at Buda, where we remained till the 28th.
Teteny	1	F.	28	
Ercsin	1½			
Adony	1			
Pentele	1			Slept.
Földvar	1½			
Paks	2			

Names of Places.	Posts.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
			Mar.	
Tolna	2			
Seksard	1	S.	29	Slept.
Batha-Szek	1½			
Szecso	1			
Mohacz	1			
Numio	1			
Fünfkirchen	1½	G.	30	Arrived at Fünfkirchen, where we remained till the 1st of April.
Siklos	1½			
Baranyavar	1½			
Laskafelt	1		April.	
Essek	1	T.	1	Arrived at Essek, where we remained till the 3d.
Vera	1½			
Vocova	1	T.	3	
Novosello	2			
Palanka	2			
Futok	1½			Slept and dined.
Peterwardein	½	F.	4	Arrived at Peterwardein where we remained till the 7th.
Petska	2	M.	7	Breakfasted.
Neu Banosze	2			
Semlin	1½			Arrived at Semlin, where we remained till the 10th.
Panzova	1	T.	10	
Ui Palanka	3			Slept.
Ogradina	4½	F.	11	Slept.
Orsova	1	S.	12	Dined.
Mehadia	2			Slept.
Bosloven	1			
Saska	2			
Weisskirchen	2	G.	13	Slept.
Lagerndorf	1			
Werschecz	1	M.	14	Slept.
Moravicz	1	T.	15	Breakfasted.
Denta	1			

Names of Places.	Posts.	Days.	Mths.	Cursory Remarks.
			April	
Schebel	1½			
Temeſwar	1½			Arrived at Temeswar where we remained till the 18th.
Monostor	1½	F.	18	Breakfasted.
Arad	1½			Dined and slept.
Mezzo-Hegyes ...	2	S.	19	Dined and slept.
Oroshasa	2	G.	20	
Sentesch	2			
Cschongrad.....	1			
Petery	1½			
Ketschkemet	3	M.	21	
BUDA	6			Arrived at Buda, where we remained till the 25th.
VIENNA	18	G.	27	
Posts	117			Reckoning, on an average, nine English miles to each post, the distance in English miles will be 1053.

ERRATA

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TRAVELS

THROUGH

FRANCE, TURKEY, &c.

LETTER I.

London, Feb. 13, 1792.

My dear Eliza,

I FEEL myself much flattered by your earnest and repeated solicitations that I would transmit to you an account of the tour which I commence to-morrow. Were I to resist any longer, I should give proofs of an obstinacy very incompatible with my feelings, and assume a consequence to which I am by no means entitled

And I consent with less reluctance, from a conviction that your candour will make a liberal allowance for the defects with which it may abound, and that your partiality, if it induce you not to approve, will at least prevent you from condemning, that plan of communication which, after some reflection, I have at length determined to adopt.

It is not my intention to enter into a minute detail of every thing which may excite my curiosity in the course of my travels. What I shall see, has been seen before; and when you are desirous of obtaining more particular information than I shall convey, there are many books to which you may refer with satisfaction. To be continually describing the exact height of an obelisk, or the scrupulous dimensions of an amphitheatre, is not only a tedious task to the writer, but renders the narrative dull, and, generally, uninteresting. These elaborate delineations may, indeed, be useful to the architect, and may be pored over

with enthusiasm by the antiquarian; but they will not be relished by the mind of delicacy, sentiment, or taste. If, therefore, I should ever investigate with such precise accuracy; if I should ever note down the measurement, or expatiate on the proportions, of any particular structure, my only view will be to impress you with a just estimation of some of those stupendous productions of antiquity, which neither the injuries of time, nor the ruder assaults of man, have yet been able to destroy. I do not, however, propose to bind myself down by any fixed rules. My digressions will probably be numerous, and, as my inclination prompts me, I may yield to the dictates of reason; or indulge in the speculations of conjecture; or be seduced by the allurements of imagination.

If this plan be desultory, I have only sketched it out, because I conceive that it will afford you more entertainment than any other: for there is an irresistible charm in variety which carries the feelings lightly along, and which, not unfrequently, more

than compensates for the absence of qualities whose intrinsic merits admit of no comparison.

Yours, &c.

LETTER II.

Boulogne, Feb. 15, 1792.

YESTERDAY morning, at ten o'clock, we set sail from Dover with a fair wind; but had not proceeded on our voyage above a couple of miles, when our fortune forsook us. The sky, which, but a few minutes before, was bright and serene, became overcast, and every symptom portended a tedious and uncomfortable passage. The wind blew so directly from Calais, that it was in vain to attempt to reach the place of our destination, and the captain informed us, that, unless we consented to anchor at Boulogne, we must inevitably pass the night in his vessel. Although some of the passengers were under the necessity of visiting Calais, they chose rather to incur the inconvenience of being landed twenty miles from it, than to run the risk of remaining

all night at sea, without refreshments, and in a place where the accommodations were not likely to invite repose. Swayed, therefore, by these considerations, we unanimously agreed to go to Boulogne.

At ten o'clock at night we were nearly two miles from the harbour, with no prospect of advancing much farther, on account of the shallowness of the water (the tide being out), when two boats passed us with great rapidity. One of them, shortly after, brought to, and, coming along-side our vessel, offered to carry us ashore. The proposal was too enticing not to be readily accepted; and, in a few minutes, all the passengers, who were sixteen in number, had, by some means or other, found their way into the boat. Fortunately it was large enough to contain us; for had it been but half the size, no entreaties would, I believe, have restrained our impatience, or have prevailed on any one not to quit the packet, where we had been confined so long, and suffered so much.

We had just arranged our baggage, and taken our seats, when the other boat overtook us, and its owners were very desirous of receiving some of us on board; but we were all too languid to undergo the exertion of a second change of situation. As, however, we had but two rowers with us, we intimated a wish that they should contribute their aid, and tow us into port. This motion our heroes considered, I fancy, as an insulting attack on their skill; for they rejected it with scorn, replying, that they knew their duty as seamen, and required no assistance. We yielded; but the other boat was hardly out of sight, when we had ample reason to condemn our blind confidence.

By this time the strength of our men was nearly exhausted, and, soon after, we found that the alternate ebb and flow of the tide had driven us on some rocks. The night was dark; the wind tempestuous; the sea high; and, to crown our comforts, it rained plentifully. We now inquired, with solicitude, how long it might be before

they could land us; but these fellows, who were fishermen, and whose sole occupation, for many years past, had been that of sailing along the coast near Boulogne, to our great surprise, could not even inform us where we were. We deplored their stupidity, but our misfortune was without remedy, and our patience was obliged to submit. One moment riding on a boisterous wave, the next bumping on an inhospitable rock, our danger evidently increased, and we, at length, began to be alarmed about our situation.

After a short consultation, we resolved to make a general shout, in hopes of being answered from the shore; but it was without effect. About half an hour later, our boat beginning to fill with water, and our impatience and apprehension augmenting, we exerted our lungs a second time, and sent forth a most vigorous but discordant yell, which was responded in such similar tones, that they might easily have been mistaken for the echo. Unpleasant to the ear as these vocal sounds most assuredly would

have been on any other occasion, they were then listened to with delight, nor could the most melodious strains have yielded a more satisfactory entertainment. We regarded them as the forerunners of relief, and were not disappointed in our conjecture; for, in a few minutes, our boat was surrounded by a troop of women, who, by the light of a lanthorn, after wading above a quarter of a mile through the water, had discovered us. You may, possibly, be conjecturing what women could have to do, up to the knees in water, at such an unseasonable hour; but, in this *polished* part of the world, the office, of carrying passengers from the boats to the shore, is allotted to the female sex.

There was with us a very corpulent gentleman, who, having suffered a good deal from his confinement, was particularly anxious to avail himself of the conveyance with all possible expedition. In this view he pressed forward to the head of the boat; but no sooner had one of these Amazons approached, and surveyed his bulk, than she

turned her back towards some lighter burden. He was left the very last, when an elderly matron, who had certainly lived long in the world without gaining much experience, was intrepid enough to venture to receive him on her shoulders; but when she had accomplished little more than half her journey, she was so oppressed with fatigue, that she let him fall into the water. Not being able to speak a word of French, he vented his rage by uttering a few English oaths, expressive of Gallic awkwardness, which were neither attended to nor understood. In this dilemma, his conductress deserted him, and he was obliged to follow her to the inn on foot.

A good supper soon drove away all unpleasant sensations, and every one had some little anecdote to relate which contributed to promote conviviality. Thus it is, the remembrance of past misfortunes and embarrassments serves to enhance the pleasure of present comfort and security.

Yours, &c.

LETTER III.

Paris, Feb. 19, 1792.

THOSE sensations, which are generally experienced by Englishmen on their arrival in France for the first time, occasioned by a sudden and total change of customs, language, and dress, were felt by me near eight years ago. I well recollect that then, every thing I beheld appeared like a dream, nor could I immediately reconcile the conclusions of my reason with the evidence of my senses. The contrast, in this respect, having lost its novelty (and my mind anticipating what was to happen), was by no means so striking. But when I witnessed and contemplated, that total revolution of sentiment and manners which little more than three years have accomplished, I was almost equally surprised. The brow of the aged was lowering; the cheek of the young

was not clothed with its accustomed cheerfulness; in short, that gaiety of heart, which had so long been the enviable characteristic of Frenchmen, was no longer apparent. A thoughtfulness, an anxiety, was visible in every countenance, and the effects which proceed from the actual sufferings of poverty and distress, and the anticipated evils of calamities still more dreadful, were openly betrayed.

From the moment I set my foot in France, specie completely vanished, and nothing but paper, issued according to present exigency, and without any substantial fund to support its credit, was to be seen.

I whispered to my friend Hayes*: Affairs cannot remain long in this deplorable state; for what people, that has once tasted happiness, can voluntarily relinquish it, or be persuaded to submit to a change of government which must terminate in misery and degradation?

But I shall delay the discussion of politi-

* This Gentleman accompanied me from London to Marseilles.

cal topics, until I have collected sufficient materials to enable me to deliver my sentiments with some degree of accuracy and decision.

On our arrival at Boulogne, we put up at Knowles's hotel, imagining, from a natural and honourable predilection which our countrymen so generally feel, that, as it was an English house, we should be less liable to imposition. But I was a good deal mortified to find, that the charges which were made were very far from confirming this favourable opinion. They were exorbitant in every respect; and we were obliged to pay, for the hire of a carriage to Paris, as much as ought, in fair dealing, to have purchased it. I am at a loss to conceive how any person, who lives by the favour of the public, can be so foolishly blind to his interest, as to carry on his business, on a system of plunder. All his calculations of gain must prove fallacious, and it must, in the end, turn out an unprofitable plan; for travellers do not easily forget, or forgive, bad usage, and are usu-

ally, sufficiently careful not to put themselves, a second time, in the power of a landlord who has pillaged them once.

Boulogne is a large city, with strong fortifications, rather well built than otherwise, and contains about thirty thousand inhabitants, ten thousand of which are national guards: such is the ardour for military fame which at present pervades France! The din and confusion of arms have supplanted the peaceful pursuits of commerce, which were, till lately, carried on with considerable assiduity and success. The vigilance of our government had, however, already lopped off one of its most prolific branches, and the English smugglers, who, a few years back, paid annually to the people of this place, between three and four millions of livres, have, at present, little or no intercourse with it.

After an early dinner on the 15th, we began our journey towards Paris, not, as we had been travelling in England, in a neat post-chaise with a dapper postillion and a pair of nice horses, all properly equipped;

but in a ponderous vehicle with four shabby little nags fastened to the carriage by ropes, and a clumsy fellow to drive them, with a flannel night-cap on his head, a pipe in his mouth, and a pair of jack boots, weighing between thirty and forty pounds, dangling at the sides of his saddle.

We passed through Montreuil just as it was beginning to grow dusky. Whilst they were changing our horses at the post-house, half a dozen drunken soldiers, in the national uniform, whose vociferations we had heard from some distance, surrounded our carriage rather tumultuously, exclaiming, "Voilà des aristocrates!" We assured them, that, on the contrary, we were Englishmen, and sincere patriots. These last words satisfied them, and they civilly wished us a pleasant journey. I mention this anecdote to convince you that the aristocratical party is still regarded as an object of jealousy and persecution; and had we turned out, what they at first suspected we were, we should probably have met with some rough treatment.

On the 16th, we slept at Abbeville, which, after Amiens, is the largest city in Picardy. It is populous and well fortified, and carries on a considerable trade, particularly in broad cloth, the manufacture of which is in high repute.

On the 17th, we stopped to dine at Amiens, which is a large, handsome, and strongly fortified city, standing in a pleasant situation on the banks of the Somme. The streets are wide and regular, the squares spacious, and the houses substantially built.

Very extensive woollen manufactures were, till lately, established in this place; but almost every branch of trade has received a fatal shock; and such is, at present, the small demand here, for the productions of peaceful industry, that upwards of twelve thousand poor artisans are without employ, bitterly lamenting those convulsions which have deprived them and their families of bread, and cursing those agents whose folly or wickedness has thrown every thing into confusion, and completely deranged the economy of social life.

Whilst dinner was preparing, I went to see the cathedral, which is one of the most magnificent Gothic buildings in the kingdom. The outward appearance is still the same; but, since the neglect of religion, and the persecution of the priests, the internal splendour of the French churches has been fast declining; and all the most costly decorations, which formerly enriched and embellished this, have been removed by the sacrilegious hand of some public plunderer. Nothing that could be turned to any kind of profit has been regarded, by these disinterested rulers, as an unfit object of possession; and with a zeal, in exact proportion to their relative intrinsic value, have the saints in the churches been melted down, and the crucifixes on the road converted into firewood.

No sooner does your carriage stop, in any town or village in France, than it is immediately thronged with beggars, who earnestly implore your relief. Since the revolution, the number of these unhappy petitioners has been considerably augmented

At Clermont, one man in particular attracted our notice. Even his companions in misfortune seemed to be anxious for the success of his application, and, in their concern for his miseries, to forget their own. He was really an object worthy of compassion. Every feature of his face was distorted, and the pallid languor, by which his countenance was suffused, too strikingly, I fear, portrayed the measure of his sufferings. Yet there was a kind of placidness in his deportment which, at intervals, expunged the picture of woe, the accumulated afflictions of many years had been contracting and confirming, and which warranted one to say:—That man, however defective he may be in other respects, possesses a good heart. He interested our feelings very much; and, inquiring into the circumstances of his fortune, we found that, in addition to all his other calamities, his reason was impaired. How the sympathetic breast is torn by the review of such complicated misery! If the mind be vigorous, all corporeal infirmities may be con-

templated with philosophy, and borne with fortitude: but, when mental imbecility unites with bodily disease; when the grand mound which separates, and distinguishes, man from the brute creation is levelled; the prospect is too afflicting to behold. Happy, indeed, is it, that the sufferer is unacquainted with the severity of his lot; for the thorough conviction of a derangement of intellect, must, I think, be the most terrific torture that can enter into the imagination of man.

When, my friend, we observe that every corner of the habitable world teems with wretchedness, and furnishes instances of humiliation, how thankful ought he to be, who is blessed with the full enjoyment of all his faculties! how careful to avoid an improper application of them! how studious to improve and extend their various powers! A peaceful mind strengthens the body; a healthful body invigorates the mind; and as it is our duty and our interest to avoid, as much as possible, both bodily pain and mental perturbation, we ought

never to allow ourselves to neglect those precautions or remedies which administer to the advantage of either. But although it be incumbent on us to pay a sufficient attention to the body to preserve its health and activity, it is the mind which demands our principal care and solicitude; for that is the base on which the superstructure of happiness or misery must ultimately repose; the salient source of every permanent satisfaction or regret, of every real enjoyment or mortification through life. When it has been once habituated to virtue; when it has been cultivated with industry, and properly stored with knowledge; a man may then, and *then only*, consider himself independent. He will be respectable in every situation, and the inexhaustible fund of amusement and consolation which he possesses within himself, will cheer and support his heart under the heaviest afflictions that can befall him, will mitigate his sufferings on the bed of sickness, and yield him society amidst the horrors of a dungeon. Riches and rank may be lulled by

the soothing accents of purchased adulation; but talents and merit will meet with demonstrations of true respect, and be gratified with the voice of manly praise. They attach a kind of stability to our fortune, which is secured from the perils of every shock, and place us, in a manner, beyond the reach of fate. They learn us to view with contempt, or to bear with magnanimity, the poison of malice, the coldness of indifference, or the undisguised attacks of force; and enable us to be undisturbed spectators, amidst the ruinous dispensations of death, and the most awful conflicts of nature.

Before our carriage drove off from Clermont, we ordered the postillion to give something to this poor unfortunate man. He could just understand us, and returned a look of gratitude which spoke more feelingly to the heart, than all the graces and refinements of studied elocution.

On Saturday we dined at Chantilly, and arrived here yesterday.

The delightful palace and gardens of the prince of Condé, I saw when I was last in France. They were then the residence of peace, the repository of taste, and the elegant retreat of an illustrious family. At this moment, the estate is sequestered, and its owner in exile. Although it is still open to the inspection of the public, I felt no inclination to revisit it, in its present state; for I am little disposed, to receive any satisfaction from traversing the abode of spiritless dejection, nor have I a mind so unhappily constituted as to relish that brutal pleasure which arises from the contemplation of fallen greatness.

I am told that many things have been already totally demolished, and that others are, from absolute neglect, mouldering fast to decay. The game too, which was so abundant, whilst it was preserved for the diversion of the prince, has, since his retreat, been persecuted by the peasantry with such unremitting zeal, that it is totally destroyed. Such will ever be the blind fury of the multitude! Whenever a privilege is granted

which their happiness does not require, and from the exercise of which they can derive no solid advantage, they will never rest till they have annihilated it, by exhausting the source which supplies the means of enjoyment.

Before we reached Paris, we stopped at St. Denis, where there is a noble church, which is also remarkable for being the burial-place of the kings of France. Some of the monuments are very magnificent, and the treasure was formerly one of the richest in Europe; but the vessels of gold and silver, the saints studded with diamonds, and the celebrated onyx vase, have all shared the same fate.

On entering the metropolis and the other great cities we passed through, we were not incommoded or delayed by the troublesome visitations and inquiries of impertinent custom-house officers, whose frequent intrusions used to be a great drawback on the pleasures of travelling in this country. This was an abuse, at the abolition of which every one must rejoice, as their

services answered no good purpose, and were only a frivolous pretence for keeping a set of undeserving dependents in pay.

The roads through Picardy (for I shall adhere to the ancient division of France) are generally good. The country is open, level, and well cultivated, and its principal production is wheat.

Yours, &c.

LETTER IV.

Paris, Feb. 23, 1792.

DURING our residence in this overgrown and populous city, so great has been our desire of employing our time to the best advantage, that even the severity of the coldest and most unpleasant weather you can well imagine, has not been able to keep us within doors. What a strange inquisitive being man is! When his curiosity is once on the wing, no trouble appears repulsive, no obstacle insurmountable; but he levels, in his imagination, the road which is to conduct him to the conclusion of his wishes, and allows no intermediate difficulty to check his inclination, or deter him from his pursuit.

Anxious to behold the place of the king's confinement, our first walk was to the palace of the Thuilleries. We stopped to

examine the wing next the river, and our conductor began his observations by pointing out to us the four places, at one of which, it is conjectured, the unfortunate Louis made his escape, when he fled from his capital. Three of them are now strongly barricaded, and the other is blocked up. Since that fatal period, some national guards have been constantly stationed at the windows of his apartment, who, as if they gloried in insulting the feelings of a fallen monarch, seemed emulous of rendering themselves as conspicuous as possible.

The gardens belonging to this palace are extensive, and are well planted with spreading trees which divide them into several pleasant walks, where the Parisians assemble, and enjoy themselves, in the evenings of the summer months. The external magnificence of the building is uncommonly striking; yet, from the silent gloominess which hovers round it, one would little suspect it to be the actual residence of the first magistrate of a great empire.

That too much money was formerly dissipated in maintaining the splendour of the French court, every one will readily admit: and as millions were not created to satisfy the profuseness, or administer to the caprices, of one man, it was proper that an extravagance, which was highly detrimental to the interests of the community, should receive a check, and be compressed within narrower limits. But, on the other hand, few will contend, that, whilst a king sits on the throne, and forms an essential branch of the constitution, a nation should not generously contribute to his support, and be even jealous of the invasion of that dignity which is suitable to the importance of his office, and the elevation of his rank. For the generality of mankind is so guided and determined by the immediate impressions which they receive through the organs of sense, that they are incapable of entering into abstract and speculative points, or of carrying their observations to remote consequences. Not knowing how to distinguish between plainness and insig-

nificance, they annex to exterior shew a real and substantial importance; and, with them, when once the outward forms of that pomp and parade, which they have been taught to venerate, are abolished, relaxation of respect, if not total indifference, will speedily ensue.

On our return home, we passed through the Louvre, and had the mortification to see that noble structure, on which such immense sums have been lavished, and which is considered as one of the finest specimens of architecture which modern times have produced, in a state of rapid decay. The roof of one of the fronts has fallen in, and it is passed every day by thousands of people, who view it with as much unconcern, as if it only exhibited the wreck of some miserable hut. If Louis the XIVth were to rise from the dead, and behold his favourite palace in this neglected and ruinous condition, how the blood would boil in his veins! Fortunate, perhaps, might it have been for the country, if his active and

lofty spirit had animated the latent good qualities of the present monarch.

The whole city is split into parties, and, at the corner of every principal street, the glaring letters of some inflammatory hand-bill invite the eye. All the coffee-houses are crowded with pretended politicians, who, according to their various prejudices, vent the noxious torrent of their fury; and groups of hirelings, half intoxicated, are every where bawling out their national airs. Even at the theatres, places which were instituted for sober relaxation and rational amusement, the boisterous voice of faction intrudes itself, and cannot be silenced. The aristocratical party, however, has lately, after a severe struggle, evidently gained ground, and is now sufficiently respectable to venture to avow itself.

A few nights ago, we went to the *Comedie Italienne*, where we were tolerably well entertained. Caius Gracchus was represented; a tragedy which abounds with the language and spirit of republicanism. The merit of the actor, who performed the

principal character, was not very striking; but the plaudits, which were showered down upon him when he repeated a line in praise of liberty, were not easily appeased; whilst many, in another part of the house, cheered the consul with marks of *their* approbation, when he delivered a sentence expressive of the importance of good order, and the necessity of preserving the different ranks of society. And although the manifestations of these were generally overpowered by the shouts and hisses of the opposing demagogues, it was not without a violent contest. At the conclusion of the play, a most farcical incident occurred. Gracchus, who, but a few minutes before, had died on the stage of his wounds, was loudly called for, nor did the clamours of the pit subside till he made his appearance; when, after being gratified with repeated bursts of applause, he was again permitted to retire to the gloomy mansions of the dead.

The preceding evening, the queen, accompanied by the dauphin, honoured this

theatre with her presence, of which we unfortunately were not apprized till it was too late to go. Yet although curiosity would certainly have led me to attend, I should not have beheld her with any pleasure; for I saw her many years ago, when she was still in the zenith of beauty; when she was the admiration and delight of every beholder; and when all who approached her vied with each other in tokens of applause and respect. An uninterrupted series of heavy afflictions has been long preying on her charms, and, I am told, has strangely altered her. The animation of her countenance has flown, the lustre of her eyes has vanished, and she now bears the deep-traced furrows of fixed despondency and premature old age. The box in which she sat was not distinguished from any of the others by the most trifling decoration. It is, however, said, that she was tolerably well received, and that some few, who refused to take off their hats when she entered, were treated with indignation, and were, at last, compelled

to obey the reiterated cries of an incensed audience.

The poor queen of France, so lately an object of envy! Who can reflect on her sudden reverse of fortune, on her unmerited sufferings, on the savage insults to which she has been exposed, without being struck with that entire change of sentiment and opinion which, at present, agitates, and directs, the minds of this fickle people? Those, who once idolized the charms of beauty and the pomp of royalty, are now become their bitterest persecutors. The age of chivalry is, indeed, gone with *them*, and with it, all those milder and more rational virtues by which it was supplanted. Chivalry was an enthusiasm which, as it espoused the cause, and asserted the rights, of unprotected innocence, and female youth and beauty, was highly serviceable to the state of society under which it prevailed. It sprang from a noble and generous source, and was the principal instrument which tended to humanize the manners of a fierce and

unlettered age. A gradual alteration in laws, in professions, in ideas, at length, rendered the spirit of the institution useless. When the ardour for military glory abated, and men began to relinquish the tumultuous pursuits of war for the more useful avocations of peaceful industry; when the legislature had acquired sufficient energy to extend its protection to the humblest members of the community; the bands of lawless aggressors dispersed, and the services of those honourable champions were no longer required. Knight-errantry withdrew from the scene of action, and the sex, through every class of society, received the just and voluntary tribute of admiration and esteem. Wherever this rational respect, towards those who constitute so great a portion of our happiness, has never obtained, it is a proof that a people has made but very small advances in the reasonable and obvious refinements of social life: wherever it has once obtained, and is beginning to subside, it is a proof that they have lost

all regard for chastity and morality, and are totally corrupted by the brutal allurements of shameless and licentious vice.

The peculiar fate of this unfortunate family has excited an interest in every humanized breast. Our feelings are alive in proportion as their fate was unforeseen; and although there are, no doubt, calamities to which the loss of external grandeur is as a fleeting shade, yet, such are our prejudices, that we cannot help taking into our estimate of the afflictions endured, the trifling appendages of fortune and rank, and apportioning our compassion, in some degree, to the once splendid elevation of power and wealth.

In this immense city, where every thing seems to be moving with a rapidity that allows no time for reflection, the French, in spite of their domestic troubles, still retain their natural inclination for gaiety and dissipation, and the theatres and other places of public resort are always thronged with spectators. Their actors and actresses, in particular lines, have considerable

merit. In comedy they are quite at their ease, and fill their characters with a natural grace, which those of other nations have, in vain, attempted to imitate. They, however, as widely misconceive the true spirit of the tragic muse; and the finest compositions of their best authors are generally spoiled by a violence of declamation, and an impetuosity of action, which may represent the ungovernable fury of a maniac; but which are totally foreign from the tender expression of that settled, serious sorrow, which is calculated to excite our interest, and leave a lasting impression on the heart. Their operas are superbly splendid in scenery and decoration, and their management of the mechanism of the theatre is wonderfully expert; but their genius for music is as perverted, as their taste for dancing is refined.

There is, in almost every respect, a striking distinction between a London and a Parisian mob; and in no particular, perhaps, is it more marked, than in the gene-

rous philanthropy of the one, and the hardened indifference of the other, towards objects of real distress. Instances to prove this are, in both cities, occurring daily; and, during my short residence here, a very remarkable one came under my own immediate observation. In the course of one of our rambles, we fell in with a poor man who had dropped down in the middle of the street, in a fit of epilepsy, where he was suffered to remain, quite unheeded, in strong convulsions. The passengers were numerous, but no one approached to his relief, or even had the charity to remove him from the danger of being crushed to death by the carriages which were continually passing. You can scarcely conceive how I was shocked with this proof of more than savage indifference, for if we had not fortunately been thrown in his way, this poor fellow would, in all probability, have lost his life. We immediately bribed the callous breasts of his countrymen, and had him conveyed to a neighbouring coffee-house, and attended to, nor

is any praise due to us for fulfilling so evident and natural a duty. Benevolence, thank God, is still the companion of the heart, and any man of common humanity could have done as much.

Yesterday morning we went to the national assembly, and never were my expectations more thoroughly disappointed. Instead of that decent solemnity with which one naturally conceives that the public affairs of a great nation are conducted, it only exhibited a scene of vulgar riot and confusion; and I can compare their proceedings with nothing more aptly than with those of an English alehouse, where every one talks and nobody listens; but with this difference, that more noise was made because more members were present. The president called to his aid all the arts of gesticulation and grimace, to preserve order, and inspire respect, without gaining the desired end. Over and over again, he had recourse to the bell, whose solemn tone is the symbol of his authority; but even the energetic vi-

brations of that *grand political engine*, awful as they were, could not appease the violence of the storm. Fifty orators started up at the same moment, all equally eager to deliver their sentiments; and when any one, after mature deliberation, was named by the president, such a constant buz prevailed through the hall, that it was almost impossible to catch a word which fell from his lips. But this is not much to be wondered at, since the auditors in the galleries are permitted to argue aloud with each other, and to testify marks of their approbation and censure.

When the king visits the assembly, the president *graciously* condescends to allow him to sit on his right hand, but no other mark of distinction is permitted to be shewn. Such is the deference which is now paid to royalty in France!

Having observed, for about half an hour, the proceedings of this tumultuous meeting, we withdrew, with very little inclination to return. In the *constituent* assembly, there were several men of distin-

guished talents and enlarged views: some few are reported to lie concealed in this; but their exertions are so overpowered by the licentious indecency of the majority, that they are incapable of rendering their country any service. The celebrated Mirabeau, so conspicuous for his genius, his eloquence, his eccentricities, and his vices, and respecting whom posterity will form such various opinions, is gone before that tribunal where his character will be impartially weighed, and his merits equitably rewarded. His death is generally lamented by the populace, as well as by many thinking and well-disposed men, and not, perhaps, unreasonably. He had, by the fascinating splendour of his talents, acquired a decided ascendency over all his cotemporaries; and I am inclined to think, that, convinced of the fatal errours which had been committed, and of the absurdity of the plans which had been adopted, he secretly leaned to a moderate and practicable system. If his views were honest, he certainly might have accomplished a

great deal. He might have awakened the people from their illusion; he might have exposed the tricks which have been practised to ensnare them; and he might have been one of the principal coadjutors in that most glorious of all works, the compilation of a rational, efficient, and just code of laws.

Our next walk was to the church of Ste. Géneviéve, which is one of the noblest structures in Paris, and is destined to receive the remains of those who may, in future, be thought entitled to the gratitude of the state. The ashes of Voltaire and Mirabeau, which were conveyed thither with the most ridiculous and ostentatious parade, are, for the present, deposited in a vault, and the monuments are to be erected when the money can be spared. Over the porch of this church is inscribed in letters of gold, "Aux grands hommes: la patrie reconnoissante;" a sentence which, although consisting but of six words, is asserted by many to be deficient in point of grammatical accuracy. This, however, I

shall leave to French grammarians to settle.

The *Place Victoire,* where Louis the XIVth was, by the vanity of his subjects, for so many years, crowned with laurels which he never gained, is crowded every morning with brokers and Jews, whose business is to buy up specie with assignats. They are said to be employed by some eminent Paris bankers, who are unwilling that their names should be made public. In clandestine transactions, there are always grounds for suspicion. In these, I understand that the offers which are made are very low, and that the full exchange is never to be expected. The statue of the king, with all the fulsome emblems which surrounded it, has been removed, and a simple pyramidical pillar erected in its place, on which are to be recorded the triumphs of the new constitution. The veil is at last rent which concealed the real character of Louis from the judgment of his country. All the obsequious and venal efforts of cotemporary writers, hired

for praise, have not been able to weave a web sufficiently strong to obscure the vices and meannesses of this narrow-minded despot. History, sooner or later, performs her office, and the time at last arrives when flattery no longer attempts to dignify the infirmities of our nature, and fear no longer suppresses the voice of truth.

Paris, on the whole, as a city, is excessively dirty, and but indifferently built. The streets are irregular and narrow, and, from the want of a side pavement, the foot passengers run the risk of being crushed to death by the carriages which are continually passing, and are driven with great fury. Many very elegant and magnificent structures are, however, dispersed through different parts of the town; and the *Palais Royal*, two or three of the squares, some of the principal hotels, and a few of the streets which have been lately built, are extremely grand and ornamental. With regard to the churches, palaces, cabinets of curiosities, and collections of pictures and statues, these are not the times to see

them. Many of them indeed which, formerly, were the just pride of their possessors, and the delight and admiration of strangers, have already been plundered by the avarice of the government, or have fallen a sacrifice to the savage and indiscriminate fury of a misguided populace.

To-morrow we set off for Lyons.

Yours, &c.

LETTER V.

Lyons, Feb. 29, 1792.

AFTER a pleasant journey from Paris, we arrived here this afternoon at three o'clock, and drove immediately to the *Hotel de Milan*, where we find ourselves extremely well accommodated.

A few stages beyond Paris, we stopped to change horses at Melun, a large town, pleasantly situated on the Seine, which forms an island within its boundaries. Two handsome bridges are thrown over the river, and the castle and two or three of the principal churches are worth noticing. It is well peopled, and the inhabitants carry on a considerable traffic in corn, flour, wine, and cheese.

When we reached Fontainebleau, the evening was just beginning to set in, which

prevented us from seeing the king's palace to any advantage; and obliged us to hurry through it, without allowing ourselves time to examine, even the pictures with accuracy. The building, which consists of several piles, erected at different times, in the disposal of which no regard has been paid to the rules of symmetry, has a stately appearance, rather on account of its extent than from the materials of which it is composed. Many of the apartments, which, collectively, are said to amount to the astonishing number of fifteen hundred, of different dimensions, are furnished with magnificence and taste, and the chapel is universally admired. What, however, principally attracted our attention was the gallery of Francis the First. It is of a great length, and, in the days of that munificent and splendid prince, was frequented by his court as a morning parade. One side of it is lined with small recesses, which were then fitted up as shops, where the most elegant and costly goods were displayed. The noblemen purchased these expensive

articles, and presented them to the ladies: a proof of the profuseness and gallantry of the times!

The French kings have for many centuries made use of this castle as a hunting seat; and the forest, which surrounds it, and contains within its limits near thirty thousand acres of well planted land, is stocked with every species of game. Since the epoch of liberty, some of the peasantry have been audacious enough to attempt to take the pleasures of the chace within these domains; but the spirited resistance of the inhabitants of the town, who still preserve some respect for the memory of their king, has hitherto proved successful.

In the ponds, near the palace, there are some carp of an astonishing size and age. None of them are ever allowed to be caught or molested; and, from the protection and indulgence which are constantly shewn them, they are become so domesticated, that they follow you, in shoals, as you walk along the margin, and will even eat bread out of your hand.

The day after we left Fontainebleau, we passed through Montargis, which is situated on the banks of the Loing, a small distance from the spot where the celebrated Orleans canal forms a junction with that river. The country which surrounds it is pleasant, and well stocked with wood.

A few stages farther stands Briare, which is in itself an insignificant place, and only remarkable for the canal which bears its name, and unites the Seine with the Loire.

From Briare to Nevers the road runs, almost the whole way, on the prolific banks of the Loire; the vineyards begin to appear; and the eye is gratified with many beautiful and picturesque views.

Before we reached Nevers, we passed through La Charité and Pougues. The former is a large but gloomy town, and contains nothing worth seeing but the bridge over the Loire and the priory of Cluni. The latter is chiefly celebrated on account of its two fountains, whose wa-

ters are said to be very efficacious in the cure of the dropsy and some other disorders, on which account it is much resorted to by invalids.

At Nevers we were detained a day, in consequence of the breaking up of the ice on the Loire, which rendered the passage of the river dangerous. There is a handsome stone bridge over it; but, at present, it is totally useless, the two middle arches having been swept away, about a year ago, by the pressure of the water, which rose to an astonishing height. It will, in all probability, be long allowed to remain in this ruinous state, for devastation is every where too busily employed, to allow any one to think of repairing. The fortress and the ducal palace are also worth seeing, as well as the manufactures of glass and earthen ware, which employ a great part of the inhabitants.

In the evening my friend Hayes took me to see a physician of his acquaintance, who was a very curious, facetious old fellow, and entertained us with his conver-

sation and a supper, which were both excellent. Indeed, he produced so many good things at his table, and pressed us to partake of them with such uncommon earnestness, that I could not help being illiberal enough to suspect he had some design against us, and wished to enroll us, for a few days, on the list of his patients. If, however, this was the case, he was disappointed, for we left Nevers, in very good health, early the next morning.

This old gentleman's entertainment, and the persevering manner in which he insisted, that we should partake of almost every dish of which it was composed, have furnished me with a fair opportunity of troubling you with my ideas, concerning the true meaning of the term *hospitality*. I dare say they will be in complete unison with your own; and indeed, if they should not, as I intend to be concise, you will, at all events, be no great sufferer, by reading what I have to advance on the subject.

True hospitality then, in my opinion,

consists in making your house, the house of your guests; and in allowing every man, whilst he is entertained at your expence, exactly to follow his wishes; so long, at least, as they do not interfere with those necessary and obvious rules of good-breeding, which every friend to society would wish to see scrupulously maintained. A departure from this line of conduct, is exacting a very severe penalty as the price of an invitation; for nothing can be more unpleasant to a person of good education or good sense, than to be besieged on every side by false politeness, and officiously entreated to take what he has already declined. In England, however, as well as in other countries, this matter has been a good deal misunderstood. With us, in society, you are frequently obliged to drink, and in France to eat, more than you are disposed to relish.—These overstrained acts of kindness are however only calculated to excite disgust, and the bare idea of compulsion will frequently make us nauseate what, of our own accord, we

might probably enjoy. On the contrary, rational freedom is the life and soul of every social pleasure. It sweetens every blessing; it alleviates every care; it gives a proper tone to gaiety; it stimulates the powers of discourse; and keeps the spirits in perpetual circulation. Any restraint, which a landlord imposes on his guests, is a deviation from my notions of politeness, and a breach of the genuine spirit of urbanity: and why, in this country, it should be considered as less genteel to urge a man to eat against his will, than to compel him to drink, when he is already satisfied, I never could comprehend. Where, in fact, lies the difference? for if the one be as disagreeable as the other to the person addressed, the transgression against the laws of hospitality must be precisely the same. Every one ought, therefore, to be at full liberty to please himself, and to eat and drink according to the extent of his appetite and inclination. For my own part, I never, from parsimony, should wish to keep the bottle from the lips of

those who are dry, or, from a false and absurd principle of generosity, be anxious to force wine upon those who have an aversion from drinking. This is the only method of making your guests easy and happy; and true politeness and hospitality can, I think, repose on no other foundation.

On the 27th, after passing through a delightful country from Nevers, we dined at Moulins, which is the capital of the Bourbonnois, and was formerly the residence of the ancient dukes of Bourbon. It is situated on the Allier, in the middle of a fertile and extensive plain, and is much resorted to on account of its medicinal waters. It is said to take its name from the many windmills in the neighbourhood. The inhabitants carry on a considerable traffic in cutlery, which they have brought to a perfection that has given a celebrity to the place.

As we alighted from our carriage, we were followed into the inn by about a dozen women, who had each a portable

box, containing knives, scissars, and various trinkets in steel. Every one begged, with importunity, that we would buy something; but we were deaf to their entreaties, and should, I believe, have escaped without any expence, had not, at the very moment they were withdrawing, a most lovely girl entered the room, whose solicitations it was impossible to resist. All our resolutions were immediately overpowered; and, as if by previous consent, we, without hesitation, untied our purses, and purchased almost every thing she recommended. There is, indeed, a magical influence about beauty; and the simple accents which flow from a pair of rosy lips, are more persuasive, and frequently more convincing, than the learning of the scholar or the eloquence of the statesman.

The town itself is indifferently built, but the public walks on the banks of the river are very pleasant, and in one of the churches is the tomb of the illustrious and accomplished duke of Montmorenci, who was beheaded at Thoulouse in 1632. It

was erected to his memory by his duchess, as a testimonial of her affection and regret, and is greatly admired both for the workmanship and the materials.

Leaving Moulins, we did not pass through any place of consequence till we came to Roanne, where the Loire begins to be navigable. Several rich merchants are established in this city; and the conveniency of its situation for commerce has rendered it a flourishing place.

From Roanne to Lyons the road is hilly, and the country a good deal resembles some parts of Derbyshire. The mountain of Tarare, which we traversed, is three miles in length, and so steep, that, to ascend it, it is usual to assist the post horses with oxen. From its summit there is a beautiful view, over a rich country, which is terminated by the Alps.

Yours, &c.

LETTER VI.

Lyons, March 1, 1792.

THE country which surrounds Lyons is mountainous, but well cultivated, and the number of gentlemen's seats, which present themselves on every side, bespeaks the consequence and riches of this ancient city. Paris excepted, it surpasses every other in the kingdom, both in point of size and population. Its happy situation at the confluence of the Rhone and the Soane (two rivers which intersect the richest provinces of France) distinguishes it for its commercial advantages, and the spirit and enterprise of its inhabitants have not allowed these channels of industry and wealth to remain unemployed. Its chief manufacture is silk, which is brought, in the raw state, from Provence, Piedmont,

and other parts, and which, when fabricated, is distributed over half the globe.

As we have stopped here two days, I have had an opportunity of viewing almost every thing that is worthy of attention; and as the objects are numerous, to prevent confusion, I shall set down the observations that have occurred to me, in the order in which they were made.

The streets, like those of Paris, are in general very narrow, and the houses, which are built of stone, are too lofty to produce a pleasing effect. Many of them also, on account of the excessive heats in the summer, have windows of oiled paper, which give them a gloomy and inelegant appearance. Some parts of the city are however, uncommonly handsome, particularly the quays, and *Place de Bellecourt*, which is ornamented with a noble equestrian statue of Louis XIV, and is reckoned, both for the elegance of its buildings, and the proportion of its dimensions, one of the finest squares in Europe. The *Hotel de*

Ville is much admired for its architecture and convenience; and, in the centre of the bridge over the Rhone, a cross is erected, which marks the boundary that divides the provinces of *Lyonnois* and *Dauphiné*.

The college of the Jesuits is one of the most splendid in the kingdom, and, before the dissolution of that busy, aspiring, and dangerous, order of priests, was richly endowed. The library belonging to it is built in the form of a cross, and contains near sixty thousand volumes, some of which are extremely rare and valuable, and in excellent preservation. Among others, we remarked an edition of Cicero's works in folio, printed in 1498, and taken by Louis XIV from Louis Sforza duke of Milan, during the war between those two princes: also a Pliny, printed at Venice in 1472: and a Livy on vellum, in 1470, which the famous Pere de la Chaise stole from Louis XIV, and presented to this college, of which he was a member. These works are valuable specimens of the art, and when it is considered how shortly after its inven-

tion they were published, the beauty and correctness of the type are truly astonishing. We were also desired to observe several boxes of Chinese books which are curiously printed on very fine paper, uncut, and folded together with the nicest exactness. They were swindled by a Jesuit from a mandarin, and are said to contain an uninterrupted history of forty-eight of the Chinese emperors; but nobody has hitherto been found, sufficiently acquainted with the language, to translate them. A cabinet of antiquities adjoins the library, which unfortunately, from the lock of the door being deranged, we were prevented seeing.

Among the curiosities of Lyons, in addition to these modern collections, there are several respectable remains of Roman taste and splendour.

The abbey of Aisnay was formerly the athenæum erected by Caligula, where the prize of eloquence was contended for, in the Greek and Latin languages, and from which the defeated competitors, as a punishment for their presumption,

were, by the orders of that cruel and profligate emperor, precipitated into the Rhone. The church of the same name stands on the ruins of an ancient temple, which was dedicated to Augustus by the consul Lucius Munatius Plancus, the reputed founder of the city; and the four stone pillars, which support the present choir, belonged to the original edifice; but, by being divided, all proportion between the height and bulk is totally destroyed. Near the convent of St. Mary are to be discovered some trifling vestiges of the imperial palace, which was once the residence of Severus; and, without the gate of St. Justinius, are the ruins of a Roman aqueduct.

From the terrace of the monastery of the Carthusians, there is a charming view of Lyons and the adjacent country. The gardens, which lie on a declivity bounded by the Soane, are planted with vines, which were formerly cultivated by the hands of the friars. This monastery, with the lands that appertained to it, has lately

been confiscated, and sold at public auction: and its wretched inhabitants, who led a life of innocent contentment within its walls; who regarded it as the asylum of peace; as a safe and respectable retreat from the vices and vanities of the world; as the boundary of their ambition on this side eternity; suddenly reduced to penury and want, are now compelled, and most of them at an advanced period of life, to begin the world again; to seek a refuge elsewhere; and to owe their bread to a humiliating dependence on the fleeting generosity of an iron age.—Ill-fated men! you have my compassion, for you have been cruelly used: but what could you expect, when rogues are legislators, and legislators are enriched by the wages of plunder; when the modesty of virtue is abashed by the impudence of vice; when wisdom is persecuted and despised, and venality encouraged and promoted; when a hardened and profane contempt of the most sacred obligations insures applause, and levels the road to power and emolu-

ment; when an antidote has been discovered against the pangs of an accusing conscience; and every tie of nature, morality, and religion, is absorbed, by the malignant poison of self-interested ambition?

Whilst I thus warmly express myself, I must add, that I am far from being an advocate for the excessive riches and possessions which were, till lately, engrossed by the clergy of France, and which, whilst they were oppressive to the people, were very frequently bestowed on worthless objects. I recollect the misery which the intolerant and ambitious spirit of the Romish church has heaped on the human race. I recollect that, in every age of its usurpation, it has been distinguished for an avaricious, a mercenary, a cruel, an unrelenting, a sanguinary disposition. I think we ought to look, with some degree of jealousy, on the wealth and dominion of priests in every country. I abhor superstition, which is a corrupt source of the most odious crimes, which, whilst it enslaves the mind, debases the heart, and,

by holding out a pecuniary purchase of pardon, totally destroys all regard for virtue, and subverts the very foundation of the moral sense. But when a reform is to be introduced, it is surely right to proceed with caution and temper, and some lenity and compassion ought to be extended to a numerous body of men, many of whom are venerable from their age, respectable for their virtues, and eminent for their talents, and whose chief misfortune it has been, to have been born at a time, when the government of their country held out an encouragement to the profession they follow.

The convent of the Carmelite nuns, which was built by the Villeroy family, at an immense expence, is likewise, it is feared, on the eve of dissolution; for although the ornaments of the church are not yet removed, divine service is no longer suffered to be performed in it. The great altar is magnificent, and is adorned with a picture, representing the descent of our Saviour from the cross, which ranks among Le Brun's most

finished productions; and one of the chapels contains the monument of the Villeroy family, which is admirably executed.

We saw the abbess, who, with tears in her eyes, deprecated the misfortunes she speedily expected to incur: and not without reason: for such is the ferocious and predatory disposition of the ruling faction in this wretched and distracted country, that no discrimination is made between the good and the bad; but every consideration is rendered subservient to their infatuated notions of present advantage. They forget that justice is the grand and substantial pedestal which can alone uphold any system of jurisprudence; and that when once that divine attribute is banished from the proceedings of men, and honour is bartered, without remorse, for pecuniary compensation, they must inevitably revert to a state of dissolute barbarism and confusion.

If it were deemed politic or necessary to introduce a reform into religious establishments, and to curtail the luxuries and

extravagancies of the rich benefices, even *that* ought to have been effected by degrees, and some attention ought to have been paid to the common dictates of equity and decorum. If the superfluous revenues of the opulent had been retrenched, and if those, who received merely a competency, had been allowed to enjoy it till they were gradually removed by the hand of time, the state would have been eventually benefited; a new and purer system of religion would have ripened to maturity; the laws of justice would not have been invaded; and the honour of the nation would have been spared. But totally to dispossess thousands, without distinction, of the whole of their property; to deprive them of their only means of subsistence; and to leave them, for future provision, at the entire disposal of chance; was an unmanly and cowardly act. It was a *public robbery*, rendered more glaringly atrocious, because, regardless of the opprobrium it was calculated to excite, it was sanctioned and ordained by a *public decree*.—Policy may

frequently palliate, necessity may frequently excuse, the adoption of measures, which, under different circumstances, every wise and honest legislature would be wishful to avoid; but to carve out public plans, for the mere advancement of individual interest, is the consummation of wickedness. Oh! how power is perverted, when it is dealt out by contaminated minds!

It is late at night, and I must now conclude.

Yours, &c.

LETTER VII.

Marseilles, March 8, 1792.

At one time, we had some thoughts of descending the Rhone, from Lyons, as far as Avignon; but, the wind, changing to an unfavourable point, we were obliged to relinquish this plan of a water expedition, and, on the 2d, we proceeded on our journey, in the usual way.

From the road between Lyons and Vienne, we had a noble and interesting view of the Alps, whose towering summits traced the majestic boundary of many a landscape, wrought by the wild and fanciful hand of Nature.

Vienne is delightfully situated on the banks of the Rhone, and surrounded by high mountains. It is one of the most ancient cities in France, and is celebrated

for being the spot, to which Pontius Pilate is reported to have been banished, when he was recalled from Jerusalem. His house, and the lake in which he drowned himself, were pointed out to us; and the church of *Notre Dame de la Vie*, which is evidently a Roman structure, is supposed (at least by the man who shewed it to us) to have been his prætorium. Circumstantial as these traditions are, very little credit is given to any part of the story by people of information; and it is a doubt with many, whether that famous personage ever resided in this city. The cathedral is a noble Gothic edifice; and the remains of an amphitheatre and a triumphal arch dispose one to entertain a favourable opinion of the former consequence and splendour of the place. At a small distance from the southern gate, there is a neat stone pyramid, which is conjectured to be the tomb of some ancient Roman.

Between Vienne and Auberive, but on the opposite side of the river, lies the spot which produces the famous Côte Rotie

wine, so called from its being a bank exposed to the sun; and a few posts farther on, is Tain, a small town, situated at the foot of the Hermitage mountain, no less celebrated for the excellence and flavour of the grape which bears its name.

Leaving Tain we passed through Valence and Montélimart, both ancient and considerable towns.

The road from Vienne to Orange lies almost the whole way on the banks of the Rhone, intersecting a delicious country, which is in a high state of cultivation, and extremely productive. Meadows, woods, corn-fields, and vineyards, appear in succession, and enchant the sight with a charming variety of rich and picturesque scenery.

On the 3d we slept at Orange, the city from which the illustrious house of Nassau derives its title, and which remained in its possession till the time of our William the IIId, when Louis the XIVth, in pitiful revenge for the glorious and successful resistance which that patriot

king opposed to his ambition, confiscated the principality, and annexed it to the crown of France. It was a place of considerable consequence in the time of the Romans, and the remains of a circus, an amphitheatre, and an aqueduct, are still extant. The circus, or more properly speaking, the theatre, though it has suffered much from the injuries of time, is a noble ruin, and conveys a correct idea of that kind of ancient structure. It consists, at present, of two strong walls, of a great height and length, which are separated from each other by a space of about twelve feet, and the scena and orchestra are easily discernible. There is also, without the walls of the town, a triumphal arch, supposed, from an inscription upon it, to have been dedicated to Marius, in honour of his splendid victory over the Cimbri and Teutones. It is almost entire, and, though rather overloaded with ornaments, is of superior workmanship.

About two o'clock the following day we reached Avignon, which is a large

handsome city, agreeably situated, in a fertile country, on the banks of the Rhone, and surrounded by a substantial stone wall which is crowned with battlements.

The churches and monasteries are very numerous, and the streets swarm with ecclesiastics, who seem to have little else to do, than to impose on the credulity of the people, and consume the riches of the state. The lower orders of the people are contaminated by their example. They are extremely idle, and neglect to avail themselves of the natural advantages which are afforded by a navigable river and a prolific soil.

Notwithstanding this city is in the pope's territories, it has not been sheltered from the disorders of the times. A turbulent fellow, a blacksmith by profession, first roused the spirit of civil discord, and, by his boldness and activity, soon found himself at the head of a numerous banditti, whose fury raged, for some time, without control. This sedition, at length, got to such an alarming pitch, that it was judged

necessary to send a French regiment to quell it, which was soon effected, and the ringleader was secured. Since then, he has been under strict confinement; but, as the number of his partisans is formidable, the sentence of his punishment has not been declared. This wretch, on account of the various cruelties and depredations which he has perpetrated, is regarded as an object of such hatred and horrour, that he is distinguished by the emphatic appellation of *Coupe-Gorge*.

The temporal as well as the spiritual dominion of the pope have, for the last two centuries, been gradually waning towards insignificance. Once the concerns of Europe were at his disposal, and he could make potentates and empires tremble at his frown: but the magic spell which, for so many ages, operated on the credulity, and enchained the resistance, of mankind, has totally vanished; and those bulls and excommunications, which formerly enforced repentance and obedience, would produce nothing now but derision and

contempt. This revolution of opinion is, however, a fortunate circumstance for mankind, and every liberal and honest mind must rejoice at the diminution of an authority, which was usurped by artifice, retained by terrour, and employed in iniquity. The pope, at present, is a mere pageant, without either power or influence; and, as he no longer can disturb the happiness and tranquillity of the world, justice seems to require, that he should no longer be regarded as an object of attack. There is something in weakness which always excites our compassion, especially when it is contrasted with the eminent superiority of past strength; and those sufferings, which are endured without the possibility of resistance or the hope of redress, must awaken some degree of sympathy in the breast of every manly and generous foe.

From 1309 to 1376 (a space of sixty-seven years) Avignon was the seat of the pontifical see, and with a considerable surrounding district has since then, a few short intervals excepted, continued to

acknowledge its sovereignty. The inhabitants, panting after liberty, and weary of their obedience to a Romish priest, have lately expressed a wish to be reunited to the kingdom of France. A French regiment, as we have seen, has been already granted; and it is thought that the national assembly, after offering an indemnity to the pope too trifling to be accepted, will have the magnanimity to comply with the full extent of their desires.

On account of these insurrections and disturbances, almost all the churches are shut up. It was with difficulty we got admission into the chapel of the *Penitens Noirs*, which is adorned with some valuable paintings by Mignard, and contains an ivory crucifix, the workmanship of which is so admirable, that it obtained the pardon of the artist who was under sentence of death.

I was extremely desirous of visiting the tomb of the beautiful Laura, whom Petrarch has immortalised by his verses. It was erected to her memory by the gallant

and munificent Francis the first, who also wrote the epitaph. But we were very unfortunate, and, after making several fruitless inquiries for the man who had the keys of the church, reluctantly abandoned the point. Many would not have thought it an object worthy of so much trouble, for the monument is a plain slab of marble, and the inscription on it consists of two simple lines. But they were penned by the hand of a monarch who was a patron of learning, and who was himself one of the most accomplished scholars of his age. To those who venerate the charms of beauty and genius, a spot, that has been thus distinguished, awakens the most exquisite sensibility, and, through the medium of memory, conveys to the soul some of its most delightful perceptions. It was also with deep regret that I relinquished our intended excursion to the fountain of Vaucluse, and the banks of the Sorgue, so celebrated for being the retreat of Petrarch, and which, even in his prose works, he describes in the language, and with the genius, of a poet.

Petrarch ranks high among the Italian classics, and the purity of his language, and correctness of his taste, far outstripped the age in which he lived. At the distance of upwards of four hundred years since he flourished*, he is still the delight of every reader who has a soul to feel those glowing expressions and tender sentiments with which his writings abound. His celebrity as a politician rivalled his fame as a poet; and he was employed in many of the most arduous negotiations of that busy period. To him, indeed, and his friend Bocace, who also resided at Avignon, the whole human race is indebted, as they were the most conspicuous among that small, but glorious and generous, band, who first contributed to rekindle the spark of genius and erudition, which had been smothered for so many ages, and to distribute the

* Petrarch was born at Arezzo in Tuscany, the 20th of July, 1304, and died at Padua the 18th of July, 1374.—See the Abbé de Sade, Mem. pour la Vie de Petrarque.

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sacred light of science and taste over the face of Europe.

As Nismes was only about forty miles out of our way, we should hardly have been justified, had we allowed so good an opportunity of visiting that renowned and ancient city to escape, especially as it can boast of some of the noblest monuments which have been saved from the general wreck of the industry and arts of antiquity.

From the summit of the hills by which we descended into the valley of Gard, we had several striking and extensive views of the plain and city of Avignon, embellished with the windings of the Rhone, and terminated by the lofty mountains of Dauphiné.

About three miles before we arrived at Nismes, we stopped to admire the famous aqueduct, called the *Pont du Gard,* which is a stupendous edifice, and a noble remnant of the splendid and persevering industry of the Romans. It consists of three bridges, one elevated on the other, and was constructed by Agrippa to convey

water to the city. The lower bridge, which is thrown over the river Gardon, is supported by six arches, and is four hundred and ninety-eight feet long, and sixty-two high. The arch, through which the river flows, is seventy-eight feet wide, and the other five are not much narrower. The second bridge, which is thirty feet in height, and eight hundred and nineteen in length, reposes on eleven arches, nearly of the same dimensions as the first; and the bridge, which sustains the aqueduct, is composed of thirty-five arches, each seventeen feet in breadth. The aqueduct, including the thickness of the stones, is four feet wide, and five high; and the whole of this magnificent structure presents an elevation, which, from the surface of the water to its summit, measures one hundred and forty-four feet. It is of the Tuscan order, almost in perfect preservation, and has altogether a most majestic appearance; nor can it be contemplated without suggesting this reflection—that the Romans built, not only for themselves, but

for future generations, determined to transmit to their posterity living testimonies of their power, their riches, and their ſkill.

Nismes, though it has considerably declined from its ancient splendour, is a large, well-built, and populous city, and its manufactures of silk, which are very extensive, have been brought to a high pitch of perfection by the genius and industry of its numerous artists. Its situation is truly delightful, having, on one side, a fertile and extensive plain, which is bounded by the Mediterranean, and, on the other, a succession of hills, which are covered with vines and fruit-trees. It is one of the most ancient cities in Europe, and contains many admirable specimens of its former magnificence.

The amphitheatre, which is of the Tuscan order, is of an elliptical form, and its greatest diameter, including the thickness of the walls, is four hundred and five feet. It would, perhaps, have been almost in a perfect state, had it not been for the blind and barbarous zeal of Charles Martel, who,

to express his hatred of the Romans, and to revenge the miseries they had, at different times, inflicted on his country, ordered it to be demolished. In this view every part of it was filled with wood, which was set on fire. But the wishes of the monarch were not fulfilled; and, to this day, it presents one of the most majestic and venerable ruins it is possible to behold. The four principal entrances faced the cardinal points of the compass, and thirty-five benches (seventeen of which still remain), ranged one above the other, surrounded the inside, and accommodated, with ease, seventeen thousand people. It is built of large blocks of stone, and consists of two stories of porticos, of sixty arcades each. The top is crowned with a parapet, below which there is a range of equidistant stone brackets, which are all pierced, for the purpose of receiving the poles that suspended the awning over the spectators. The area, at present, is crowded with insignificant houses, which the municipality has lately purchased at a considerable

expence, proposing to remove them, and to restore this superb edifice, in some measure, to its original splendour.

But what principally excites the admiration of the curious is the *Maison Carreé*, which was formerly a temple, consecrated to Caius and Lucius Cæsar, the adopted sons of Augustus, and is esteemed one of the most beautiful and best preserved monuments of antiquity which Europe can produce. It is of an oblong square form, from which it derives the name it now bears. A flight of steps, which was extended along the whole front, leads to the vestibule, which is supported by six fluted columns of the Corinthian order, and twenty-four corresponding half-projecting equidistant pillars surround the building. The ornamental parts of the sculpture, such as the frieze and cornice, display a delicacy of workmanship, and an exquisiteness of taste, which surpass all description. Antiquarians were very much divided in opinion, about the use of this structure, and the period of its elevation,

till Mons. Seguier fell upon an ingenious method of decyphering the inscription, by applying letters, that correspond with the holes left, in the frieze, by the loss of the original ones. It has, long since, been converted into a chapel, and the cumbrous ornaments of Romish superstition have completely destroyed its internal simplicity.

The tower, known, on account of its size, by the name of the *Tour Magne*, is of a pyramidical form, and stands on the summit of a rock, from which there is a pleasing view of the city and the circumjacent country. Amidst the variety of conjectures on the purposes for which it was constructed by the Romans, the most probable is, that it made a part of the wall which formerly surrounded the town.

The remaining principal curiosities of Nismes consist of a temple dedicated to Diana, which is in a very mutilated state; several marble statues, and some tessellated pavement.

The fountain, which at present supplies the city with water, and which is erected

on the spot that was once occupied by the public baths of the ancients, has not been many years finished, and is justly admired for elegance of design and solidity of materials.

We left Nismes pretty early in the evening, that we might reach Tarrascon in good time, where we purposed sleeping. But when we got to Beaucaire, a small town on the western banks of the Rhone, we had the mortification to learn, that the latest hour of the attendance of the ferry-boat was passed. We were, therefore, reduced to the necessity of remaining all night at a shabby inn, where the badness of the accommodations was in exact unison with the incivility of our landlord, and the extravagance of his demands. It is an observation which I have frequently made, and which in this instance was fully verified, that a gentleman is seldom so respectfully treated, and is generally obliged to pay much more, when he puts up at an inn to which people of his station are not accustomed to resort The landlord, knowing

that it is either chance, or necessity, which has thrown you in his way, and that, when once you take your leave, you will in all likelihood never return, makes the most of his good fortune, and charges you for every thing at ten times the rate of an ordinary customer. We took the earliest opportunity in the morning of crossing the ferry. Till lately a bridge of boats, over this part of the river, united the provinces of Languedoc and Provence; but utility must yield to the confusion of the times. The Rhone holds a majestic course, and the towns and castles of Beaucaire and Tarrascon render the scenery very picturesque. Tarrascon is rather a large place; and Beaucaire, which is rendered interesting from its past history, is at present celebrated for its annual fair.

We arrived at Aix, the capital of Provence, on the 6th, at eleven o'clock at night, after a most unpleasant and tedious journey from Nismes.

This province has distinguished itself, more than any other part of France, for

its republican spirit, and its resistance to all good government; and, indeed, the moment we entered it, we perceived a striking change in the manners of the people. At Orgon, the postmaster behaved very insolently, refusing obstinately to take the assignats of five livres (which are, by the by, exchanged into small money, at a discount of from thirty-two to thirty-four sols), and would not harness his horses till we threatened to seek redress from the municipality. At one time, he made use of such scurrilous language to my friend Hayes, with whom he was a near match both in point of height and muscular strength, that I was afraid a battle would have ensued. If you had seen me standing between these two giants, keeping them asunder as well as I could, and employing all my eloquence to pacify them, I think you would have laughed very heartily.

From St. Canât the road is in a wretched condition, and infested by robbers, who commit their depredations, quite unheeded

by the eye of justice. Whilst we were changing horses, the postmaster came out, and, informing us of the danger of travelling to Aix by night, endeavoured to prevail on us to remain with him. He told us that we should really run the risk of our lives, as a man had been murdered, and the courier fired at, the preceding evening. But his house not having a very inviting appearance, we were not disposed to place much reliance on what he said, and, suspecting he was recounting these horrible stories merely from interested motives, we determined to proceed. When, however, we had got about half way, we met the courier attended by two men, armed with guns and cutlasses, who were walking at the side of his carriage. On inquiring of him, he told us, that what the postmaster had related had literally happened, which was the only reason of his travelling with guards. This was a confirmation which we could not discredit, and which raised our apprehensions so much, that we kept

our pistols in our hands till we were safely lodged within the gates of Aix.

Aix is a large and populous city, standing on an extensive and agreeable plain which is bounded by fertile hills, and has long been celebrated for its baths and hot waters, which are very efficacious in gouty and scorbutic complaints. The streets are spacious, and the houses regularly and substantially built. The cathedral, in which are several tombs of the ancient earls of Provence, is a fine Gothic structure, with a carved front which is much admired; and the church of the Carmelites contains a beautiful picture of the resurrection by Daret, and a curious old painting by king René. The walks of the square of Orbitello are planted with trees, and adorned with fountains. Tournefort and the marquis d'Argens were both natives of this town; and the great Frederick of Prussia erected, in the church of the Minims, a handsome monument to the memory of the latter, who, whilst living, enjoyed his

patronage as a prince, and his friendship as a man.

Aix has also been a scene of much confusion and alarm. About a fortnight ago, ten thousand Marseillois arrived in a tumultuous and disorderly manner, and disarmed the Swiss regiment quartered there. Fortunately it had received private orders to submit, otherwise a dreadful slaughter must have ensued.

The road from Aix to Marseilles intersects a pleasant country, planted with vines and olives; but it is, at present, in such a wretched condition, that, to escape being overturned, we were frequently obliged to descend from our carriage. Unless repaired it will soon be impassable, which will put a stop to a considerable branch of the inland trade of the kingdom. A few miles before we reached Marseilles, we had a charming view of the town, the harbour, and the surrounding country, which is highly cultivated, and enlivened with innumerable little white buildings, called

bastides *, which are the summer retreats of the inhabitants.

On my arrival here yesterday, I met with a most polite reception from Madame Guys (my friend Hayes's sister), who insists on my residing at her house, till I take my departure for Smyrna.

Yours, &c.

* The number of these houses in the neighbourhood of Marseilles is said to exceed twenty thousand. They afford a proof of the riches and population of this part of France.

LETTER VIII.

Marseilles, March 10, 1792.

MARSEILLES *, in ancient times, was renowned for laws and arms; for its polite manners, and literary institutions; for the wisdom of its government, and the extent of its trade. It has, in some degree, retained its pre-eminence, and is still one of the most considerable and commercial cities in France. It contains about one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants. The streets of the new town are regular and spacious; the lazaretto is the most complete building of the kind in Europe; and the harbour is one of the best in the Mediterranean. The country in which it

* Considering the antiquity and the extent of Marseilles, it contains very few fine churches or public buildings.

is situated is fertile, and the climate is mild and salubrious. Such are the advantages which it possesses, and which might secure the enjoyment of almost every object that is desirable in life, did not the factious spirit of its inhabitants (as if despising the favours of Providence) interfere, and thwart their natural influence.

Civil dissensions have, since the revolution, been carried to a dangerous height; and are rapidly tending towards the annihilation of all restraint. Not long since, the populace seized a poor woman, dragged her forcibly from her house, and, after having exhausted their ingenuity by the infliction of the most excruciating tortures, humanely put a period to her existence, by hanging her with the cord of a lantern that was near at hand. They alleged against her, in extenuation of these violent proceedings, a long list of the blackest crimes, which apparently had no foundation in truth; and I have been informed, that what principally rendered her obnoxious, was having formerly been the mistress

of a magistrate, who, at the commencement of the troubles, saved himself by flight.

When the executive power is thus assumed by the body of the people, and exercised according to the dictates of fluctuating passion or momentary caprice; when all regular forms of justice are trampled on and despised; when the accused is denied the possibility of justification; when a deposition is regarded as a sufficient proof of guilt; when the sacred throne of mercy is levelled with the ground; and a thirst after blood and persecution prevails; the life of no one is safe, and it only depends on chance who falls a victim first. But such will ever be the direful effects of uncontrolled licence! No dereliction of rectitude, no desertion of duty, no breach of humanity, ought then to surprise us; for, when the vices of the world are not restrained by the severity of laws, the wicked, whom security always renders courageous, will no longer shrink from the face of day, or dread to stand

forward as the champions of disorder. The poison, which has insinuated itself into the public mind, promoting their views, they will artfully avail themselves of the blindness of the times, and openly avow their pernicious principles: nor will they desist, till, by frequent assaults, they at last destroy the tottering temple of virtue, and, raising on its wreck the profane altar of iniquity, will glory to sacrifice, to the bloody deities of their perverted imaginations, the remaining pittance of private worth.

These active citizens, not satisfied with their late expedition to Aix, have resolved on a second to Arles, under the pretence of attacking and dispersing the Aristocrats, who, they affirm, have intrenched themselves there in a formidable body. But who cannot discern their real motive? Among a profligate people, the dictates of resentment operate with much less force than the incentives to plunder; and, when the dispensations of equity are no longer dreaded, the mind is peculiarly fertile in expedients.

Every individual is compelled to wear the national cockade; and in order to level, according to their notions, as much as possible, all distinction between the rich and the poor, only one kind of bread is allowed to be baked. Upon my word, I am at a loss which most to wonder at, the wickedness or the folly of this degenerate people; for their crimes and inconsistencies start up by legions, and set at defiance all powers of calculation.

The mob, intoxicated with a power which they are incapable of managing, has several times threatened to pillage the houses of the most substantial merchants in the town; and I have been assured, that, within the last month, near five hundred respectable families, dreading the issue of this irresistible spirit of persecution, have privately embarked their effects on board different vessels, determined to seek, in other countries, that comfort and security which their own no longer affords. Mons. Borelly, a gentleman of large property, who possesses a magnificent country seat in the

neighbourhood of Marseilles, has, with many others, already absented himself, to avoid a storm which had gathered over his head, and was just ready to burst.

Such is the melancholy picture of affairs in this part of France! In many other provincial towns the same spirit of independency has manifested itself; and if it have generally subsided, it has been rather owing to casual circumstances, than to any interference of the magistrates, who feel their incapacity to exert an authority, with which they are indeed invested, but which is not sufficiently respected to insure obedience.

Whilst disorders of such a nature are suffered to rage with impunity, the inability to repress them is clearly demonstrated; nor, in fact, can we expect to see good order and unanimity restored, till the bitter consequences of the present constitution have brought back the body of the people to reason. The corner-stone, which supported the edifice of allegiance, has been removed; the superstructure has been

consequently overturned; natural liberty has been tasted, and relished; and, although many begin now to view it with disgust, the majority is not yet convinced, that it is incompatible with the fundamental principles of a social union. This truth is, however, gradually gaining ground, and the number of those is not inconsiderable, who prefer the gentle tyranny of the late government to the wild licentiousness of the present.

Under the old constitution, notwithstanding the abuses which prevailed, the kingdom flourished, and the people was comparatively happy. Under the heterogeneous mass of absurdities which the national assembly has been madly attempting to organize, and to reduce to an uniform system, the arts have fled; commerce has dwindled; the manufactures are at a stand; the opulent have withdrawn themselves; the poor are without employ; the laws without energy; the resources of the state exhausted; its exigencies, beyond all precedent, augmented; public credit de-

stroyed; a paper* in circulation, which is received with distrust, and which has fallen so considerably from its original ideal value, that it no longer answers the purposes for which it was issued; the necessaries of life at a very enhanced price; whilst the difficulties of procuring subsistence are multiplied: to sum up all in a few words, happiness and plenty have been supplanted by misery and want.

When such numerous and dreadful evils exist, especially in a populous and extensive kingdom, blessed moreover with almost every advantage which the liberal hand of Nature can bestow, we may surely, without presumption, venture to pronounce, either that the laws are radically bad, or that the administration of them is scandalously perverted. In this devoted country, both these causes have combined to

* Assignats were at about 50 per cent. discount. We fortunately had specie with us; and, as no alteration had yet taken place in the price of horses, we travelled through France at about half the expence we should have incurred, had the assignats been at par.

produce its present situation; for even those few regulations which have a beneficial tendency, are neither generally nor scrupulously enforced; but every public measure is distinguished by the inefficacy of its application, or the injustice of its execution.

My opinion of French politics has been uniform; and what, a few months ago, was, in some measure, grounded on supposition, is now confirmed by observation. It is fortunate for us that we can never recede to the dark ignorance of the barbarous ages. If it were possible, the convulsive moment, would, I think, be near at hand. But the inventions and discoveries of the human mind have secured us from the dangers of so humiliating a relapse. Yet notwithstanding the wonderful efforts that have been made to rescue us from such apprehensions; notwithstanding the light of science has dispersed, from the hemisphere of knowledge, those thick clouds which once overspread it; we must *still* be guided in our conclusions of what

will happen, from what *has* happened; and it is *still* probable that similar causes will continue to produce similar effects. When, therefore, I saw a body of legislators, who were about to enact laws, which were intended to operate through an extensive and populous empire, totally discarding from their deliberations all reference to past experience, and applying to theory and metaphysics as the only sources of information, I concluded that they were endeavouring to erect a fabric, which, if ever completed, must speedily moulder to decay. Already the superstructure is too heavy for the foundations; it begins to totter; and the first paroxysm of popular fury will probably overthrow it *.

Yours, &c.

* Since this letter was written, revolution has succeeded revolution, with a rapidity which I certainly did not foresee. I was convinced that the government, which then existed, could not stand long; but those scenes of horrour and bloodshed which have since polluted France, could never have been imagined by the most speculative mind.

LETTER IX.

Marseilles, March 12, 1792.

THE climate of this part of France is quite delightful. Even at this early season, there is a serenity in the air which enhances the enjoyments of life. A clear sky and a warm sun, certainly produce a powerful effect on the constitution, and are no doubt the occasion of the gaiety, and possibly, in some degree, of the dissipation, of the inhabitants of these southern regions. There is, however, an unaccountable inconsistency in their manners, and every stranger must be struck with the abominable filthiness of the streets of this town. In the day time, they are quite disgusting, and at night, unless very expert, one really runs the risk of being smothered by what is thrown from the

windows. I cannot reconcile these indelicacies with my ideas of refinement and civilisation; and they betray an innate love of dirt, which can be vanquished neither by a sense of propriety nor convenience.

The old town presents a scene of inelegance, inconvenience, and filth, that is rarely to be paralleled. The new town, however, as far as architecture is concerned, makes amends for these defects. The streets are wide and regular, and many of the houses are built of polished stone, and ornamented with porticos and columns. The arsenal and theatre are noble structures, and the principal churches contain a few choice pictures by Puget, an artist of distinguished merit, both as a painter and a sculptor, and a native of this city. The arms, over the entrance of the town-hall, are a production of his chisel, and are carved, in bass-relief, with unrivalled delicacy and taste.

The situation of Marseilles is admirably adapted for commerce, and the harbour,

surrounded as it is by mountains, affords a secure shelter for the shipping as it arrives. The quays, which are very extensive, are handsomely and substantially built, and present a scene of perpetual business and bustle. The trade of this city, particularly with the Levant, before the present convulsions of France, was very considerable, and upwards of four thousand vessels, from different quarters, entered the harbour in the course of the year. All commercial concerns were under the inspection and control of a chamber of commerce, which was the first institution of the kind, and paved the way to their general establishment in 1701. The principal manufacture, which the inhabitants carry on, is in silk, which they have brought to great perfection ; and the oil, which is extracted from their olives, is allowed to be the finest in the world. Besides what is exported, it is an article of considerable home consumption, being a great ingredient in their cookery, and

a substitute for butter, which is very scarce.

The language of Provence is not among the least of its peculiarities. It is a jumble between French and Italian, partaking imperfectly of each, and seems to be the key which both unites and separates them. It will, however, be perpetuated as long as the love of romance survives; for Provence was the country which gave birth to the Troubadours, those famous strolling poets, the inventors of rhyme, who, for several centuries, during the infancy of modern literature, excited the attention and emulation of almost every part of Europe, and laid the foundation of all those celebrated fabulous compositions, which were the delight of their own age, and are now treasured up in the libraries of the curious.

I was last night at the play, and was as tolerably amused as the nature of the performance would admit. Considering the circumstances of the times, it was extremely well attended; but the stage in France has experienced a melancholy

change. Classical elegance and purity, the rules of just composition, and the productions of correct taste, have been gradually dismissed, and nothing is now relished but the scurrilous indecencies of ribaldry, or the sallies of licentious wit, which flatter the wild fanaticism of the times, by abusing the constituted authorities of the state, and asserting the inherent majesty of the people. The witty Moliere, the sublime Corneille, the elegant Racine, those great constellations of the French drama, are no longer endured, but are obliged to secede from public notice, and to yield the palm to the puny efforts of modern genius.

I have engaged my passage for Smyrna in a French vessel, which is expected to sail every day, so that my detention here will probably be very short. I could almost wish that it were longer; for I have been treated with such cordial hospitality and friendship by the family with whom I am staying, that I shall leave them with sincere regret.

I have now traversed France, nearly from one extremity of the kingdom to the other, and the observations I have transmitted to you, you have received, just in the order they arose in my mind; a plan by which I intend to regulate my future communications. They may lose in point of arrangement; but the advantages they will gain in other respects, will, I hope, more than counterbalance the deficiency.

I have purposely avoided entering into a minute account of palaces, pictures, and public buildings, which have been already so frequently and so accurately described. On the political state of the country, I have been more ample; for it is a subject replete with novelty and wonder, and has aroused the attention and surprise of every reflecting mind. You may, perhaps, have thought some of my expressions rather too warm; but I spoke as I felt, and as, I am convinced, even after reflection, under similar circumstances, I should again speak and feel. When, however, I lament the revolution, I lament it from the odious effects which it has already

produced, and the extensive mischief which it still portends. Real, substantial, rational liberty, I venerate as fervently as any man, nor can any man more sincerely detest the horrours and the chains of despotism. I consider liberty, both civil and religious, as the unalienable, indefeasible right of every human being; as a right which belongs to him, as perfectly as the use of the air he breathes. I consider despotism as a scandalous and glaring usurpation on the most obvious and valuable privileges of nature, and that every exertion to overturn it, is not only an act both laudable and justifiable, but a most sacred duty: for it is folly and arrogance in the extreme to attempt to maintain, that millions of human beings were created for the mere subserviency, or pleasure, or gratification, of one man, of the same mould, and faculties, and perceptions, whom nothing but the blind chance of birth has placed upon a throne. But whilst I am discoursing about freedom and slavery, I am not to be led astray by an abuse of

terms; for the history of mankind informs me, that as atrocious acts of tyranny have, with impunity, been perpetrated under what has been denominated a free government, as under the most absolute monarchy that ever existed. Had the French acted wisely and temperately, their revolution would have been a glorious era in the annals of the world. It would have been applauded by every man of virtue, sense, and feeling. It would have been one of the most noble achievements that was ever held up to the contemplation and gratitude of the human mind. It might have been an unsullied pattern and example of disinterested patriotism, and have led to the dissolution of slavery over the face of the globe. But the glorious opportunity has been sacrificed to the base and mercenary views of upstart and insidious ruffians; and I ever shall detest a revolution, which has destroyed one government without substituting another; which has converted order and subordination into an inextricable maze of confusion; which has ruined

a flourishing country; and presented a wide-extended field of persecution, desolation, rapine, and death.

I have little more to add on this part of my tour; but as there have been frequent contest among travellers, concerning the predominance of advantages afforded by England and France, I shall, before I conclude, endeavour to give you my sentiments on this subject, with as much candour and moderation as I can.

I confess that I feel no hesitation in deciding in favour of my own country. As far as concerns my individual feelings, whether I be swayed by prejudice or no, is of little consequence; since the conviction that a thing *is* better, makes it so, in reality, to the person who entertains that opinion. As far, however, as I would wish my opinion to operate on the judgment of others, it is incumbent on me, to clear it from misconstruction and errour; and to bestow on it all the support in my power.

I have known France in its happier days; and notwithstanding the compara-

tive state of melioration, in every respect, which it then enjoyed, my notions were much what they are now. I am not, however, so weak or so illiberal as to give such a decided preference to my own country, as to attempt to maintain, that every thing in England is better than every thing in France (for every country is distinguished by some blessings peculiar to itself), but merely that the advantages lie on our side.

As far as relates to the government of the two kingdoms, there is so little room for disputation, that I have always entirely excluded it from my calculation. With Englishmen, indeed, on that point, there can be but one sentiment.

All then I have to do, setting out with these professions, is to draw a sketch of the manners which characterise each nation, and, after fairly weighing one against the other, to see which scale preponderates.

The French (I mean to speak of them as they were, for I hope their present fit

of insanity will not last long) are a polite, affable, easy, thoughtless, ingenious, and frivolous people. They have an exterior which immediately engages the attention, and generally captivates at first sight. They can talk, and dance, and sing, for ever; but with the sobriety of steady reflection they are little acquainted. They have brilliancy of wit; but are deficient in solidity of judgment. The feelings of their hearts are warm; but not durable. Their learning is general; but not profound; and most of them have read a great deal; but studied very little: so that their conversation is sprightly and airy, well furnished with materials; but only with those materials, which lie on the surface, and which are consequently acquired with little trouble. On subtle or abstruse points they seldom converse; and they are better calculated for the giddy flutter of the drawing-room, than the learned disquisitions of the closet. They are prodigal of finery, both in furniture and dress; but the intrinsic worth seldom

corresponds with the outward appearance. Their natural taste for dissipation and amusement has introduced among them an almost endless variety of each, and the great object of their lives seems so be, to enjoy the present, and to banish totally from their thoughts the insipid recollection of the past, or the probable occurrences of the future.

Their society is always cheerful and agreeable; and they certainly have, beyond every other people, discovered the art of trifling time pleasantly away. To strangers they are courteous and hospitable; but their professions must never be understood in their full extent, and must very frequently be considered as mere sounds, without any meaning whatever. Their friendship is easily gained, and as easily lost. Whilst you are with them, they are kind, attentive, and polite; when you are gone, you are thought of no more; for, such is the versatility of their minds, that the same train of ideas seldom lasts long, and, unless revived by

something very striking, does not often recur.

They have a certain irritability about them, which keeps them in constant action; and such is the natural flow of their animal spirits, that, when any enterprise is to be accomplished by impetuous and prompt execution, they will generally succeed. But, when they have once carried their point, from a deficiency of patience and prudence, they are at a loss how to avail themselves of its advantages. Thus, the moment they had overthrown their government, they imagined themselves free, and immediately explored the wildest regions of the most intemperate excess. The hollow principles of their theory led them into an immeasurable labyrinth of errours, absurdities, and crimes. They subverted, as they endeavoured to restore, without reflection. Reasoning as metaphysicians, they deviated from every sound and rational doctrine of practical philosophy; and, amidst the multitude and variety of their changes and experiments, they

have scarcely had recourse to a single one that is in the least applicable to the state or nature of man.

To destroy a long-established system, a people needs only employ the force they possess; but the passive virtues of patience and forbearance must calm the delirium of revenge, and repress the tumults of faction, before a just code of jurisprudence can be framed, or the permanent possession of liberty secured. In our own country, we are more indebted to the deliberate wisdom and steady firmness of our ancestors after victory, than to the strenuous energy displayed in the moment of contest, for the possession of that constitution which, however people may cavil about particular parts, is, on the whole, calculated to produce the greatest portion of religious, moral, and political freedom, which the various and opposite passions and prejudices of mankind will admit.

In their address and deportment they are easy, familiar, and graceful; and are never at a loss for conversation, when they

first accost you. Initiated early into the insipid but complicated mysteries of etiquette, and accustomed from their cradles to company, they always know what rules and ceremonies to observe, and are scarcely ever disturbed by the dreadful and perplexing agitations of bashfulness. The French, in short, are endowed with those talents and propensities which seldom fail to constitute an agreeable companion. Their conversation is always cheerful, generally entertaining, and, not unfrequently, instructive. But we must retrench very much from the vanity and fickleness of their hearts, and add something considerable to the firmness and perseverance of their minds, before we can exhibit a portrait which is closely allied to the standard of human perfection.

The character of the English is, perhaps, less brilliant; but it is more respectable. It does not excite so much of our astonishment; but it commands more of our veneration. It does not so imme-

diately amuse the fancy; but it lays a stronger hold of the heart.

An Englishman, when you are introduced to him, receives you politely, without overloading you with empty compliments and professions. If he likes your society, he tells you so; and, when once you have made an impression on his feelings, that impression is lasting, and his friendship is sincere. Accustomed, both from habit and education, to think for himself, and not to adopt the opinions of others (unless, after reflection and examination, he finds them superior to his own), he is, on important matters, a long time determining; but, when he has once determined, he does not readily change. His mind being thus frequently occupied in the solution of intricate problems, it is, perhaps on this account, that he possesses not that volubility of tongue, for which the French are so remarkable. What, however, he loses in number of words, is abundantly restored in weight; and no

language furnishes more modes of forcible expression than our own.

Not naturally much addicted to pleasure or to public amusements, we have acquired, from our long and close intercourse with our neighbours, an artificial taste for them, that has progressively increased with the riches and luxury of the country.

In society we are cheerful, without straining our spirits to the highest pitch of elevation; and we go into company, as much for the promotion of durable friendship as for the fleeting purposes of immediate enjoyment. Our manners were formerly coarse and abrupt; but they are now, I conceive, quite sufficiently polished; and I could wish that they may not make nearer approaches to what is, improperly, called refinement.

But the brightest ornament of the character of the English, is that generous philanthropy which they extend to every object of distress; that ardent love which they bear their native land; and that frank confidence which they repose in the

honour of their countrymen. Nationality may, in the phlegmatic notions of a frigid or supercilious philosopher, be regarded as an imperfection; but, in the ideas of those who feel and think as nature dictates, it is a noble and generous principle, and the uncontaminated source from which a considerable portion of human felicity flows. It is a sentiment that is sure to generate content. It makes the Greenlander satisfied with his mountains, and the Arab with his deserts, and, by a happy illusion, as sweet perhaps as the reality, transfers to the native frosts and snows of the one, and the parching sands of the other, the blessings of the most favoured regions. I like the man who thinks well of his country. The opinion of superiority, when founded on a consciousness of real merit, is often the cause of superiority. It is a perennial source of active virtue and manly exertion; and, by stimulating us to the performance of those duties which we owe to the character we have formed of our-

selves, is, not unfrequently, the origin of eventual success.

Such are the distinctions which I have been able to discover between the characters and dispositions of these two great and rival nations. Each enjoys its own peculiar advantages, and each possesses its own peculiar merits. They are, indeed, characterized by very opposite endowments and qualifications; but which is most entitled to our esteem, or has the best claim to our admiration, I think you will have no hesitation in determining.

After having said so much about the men, I cannot, with any propriety, especially as I am writing to you, altogether omit the ladies. Their characters, however, which are marked with the same strong shades of variance, are easily drawn.

The women in France, like the men, are thoughtless, lively, and dissipated; bewitching companions; but for wives, my fair countrywomen may, without presumption, claim a decisive pre-eminence over the

whole female creation. The French women, disdaining to be encumbered with the embarrassments of restraint, shew at once what they are; and it does not unfrequently happen, that, at a first interview, in the course of a few hours conversation, you become thoroughly acquainted with their talents, their accomplishments, and even their propensities: but there is a modest and dignified reserve in the demeanour of the English women, which shrinks from the eye of observation; which seems to stand in need of protection; which, as it developes itself, excites a fresh interest; and which, gradually revealing its value, bestows a grateful recompence on the assiduity of cultivation. The French women are all spirit and animation, and their natural gaiety often betrays them into indiscretions which the voice of reflection is unable to repress. Thus, in their attachments, they are hasty rather than discreet, fervent rather than steady, indiscriminate

rather than refined. The English women are less volatile, their hearts are better formed for constancy, and their tempers less subject to caprice. To sum up all in a few words, the French women captivate for a day, the English women for life.

With regard to the genuine intrinsic comforts of existence, I think they are neither practised, nor understood, in any country but our own. We are not ostentatiously splendid; but what we have is good, and the mere glare of external brilliancy would not, in our opinion, impart to it an additional value. In cleanliness, articles of elegant convenience or real utility, we certainly surpass every country on earth. Step into the house of any foreigner, and afterwards into the house of an English gentleman, and this point is immediately determined. The accommodations on our roads for travellers are likewise, beyond all comparison, superior to those which are to be met with elsewhere.

I must now say adieu; I may otherwise be wandering to some other topic, and I am sure you will find my letter, as it is, quite long enough.

Yours, &c.

LETTER X.

Smyrna, April 7, 1792.

On Tuesday the 13th of March, I took leave of my friend Hayes and of Madame Guys (whose politeness and kindness I shall ever remember with gratitude), and embarked on board the Cazimir, captain Jaubert, for Smyrna.

For the three first days I was extremely ill; the fourth, the violence of the sickness began to abate; and, after the fifth, I felt no inconvenience from the motion of the ship. You are not, however, on that account to imagine, that my situation was by any means a desirable one; for, from the moment of my departure from Marseilles till the moment of my arrival at Smyrna, the time hung so heavily on my hands, that I would wil-

lingly have passed in oblivion that short period of my existence.

I was the only passenger on board; and the mind of the captain was so continually wrapped up in the concerns of his vessel, that he scarcely ever condescended to chat with me. I had recourse, by turns, to my books and my pen; but such numerous causes of dissatisfaction were almost perpetually intruding on my thoughts, that the amusement, I derived from them, was barely negative. Scarcely any author or any reflection could make me forget, that I was in a French vessel; that I was in a state of confinement; and, what I most stood in need of, that there was no person near me whom I could call my friend; and who, by dividing my feelings, would have taken off the edge of that keen sensibility, which the sudden transition, from a charming society to an irksome solitude, had created. When I rose in the morning, I wished for night; when night arrived, the morning was desired; even the hours were

counted as they went, and willingly consigned to annihilation.

On the 15th, we saw the island of Sardinia. On the 16th, during the night, we passed the coast of Barbary, and, on the 18th, the island of Malta. I was sorry to have missed seeing this celebrated rock, which has made such an illustrious figure in the history of Europe. It is well inhabited, and every citizen is a soldier, at perpetual war with the Turks and the piratical states of Barbary. The strength of its fortifications secures it from the danger of any hostile attack; but that formidable naval armament which it once commanded, and to which it was chiefly indebted for its consequence, is no longer maintained *.

On the 19th, we had a distinct, though

* It has now completed the history of its independence, and, by the shameful surrender of its rights, bartered for French gold, totally eclipsed its former lustre. Our energy has since conquered it from the French: our vigilance ought for ever to preserve it from their domination. Let us keep in our minds the fate of Elba.

distant, view of mount Etna; and on the 23d, in the afternoon, cape Matapan, which is the extreme branch of mount Taygetus, and the ancient promontory of Tænaros, presented itself. It is, at present, inhabited by the Maniots, and other races of savage and inexorable pirates, who consume their lives in the pitiless and atrocious pursuits of rapine and slaughter. They lurk, day after day, concealed in their creeks, and watching with keen, but patient, avidity for their prey. A furious gale of wind, and a tempestuous sea, are the first object of their wishes, and the firmest supporter of their hopes. They then redouble their vigilance, and, the moment they espy a vessel that is vainly wrestling with the storm, they sally out in their boats, which are always fast sailers and well armed, and secure their prize. The cargo is distributed among them, and the wretched crew is irrevocably condemned to perpetual bondage or instant death.

On the 24th, early in the morning, just as we were entering the Archipelago, one

of the piratical vessels* which infest that sea was discovered. She was steering towards us with all the sail she could crowd, and by eight o'clock had approached so near, that we could plainly distinguish her guns and men. To make as great a shew as possible, and impress them with a favourable opinion of our courage, we all mustered on deck, well provided with small arms. She, however, still continued to gain on us; and as their strength was much superior to ours, and they seemed eager and determined in the pursuit of us, we thought it not improbable that an action might take place. This certainly was a moment which required firmness and decision; but our captain was so overcome with fear, that he was totally at

* We afterwards heard, that this vessel was one of Lambro's squadron. This fellow was a renegado Russian, who, by his courage and activity, had collected under his command a formidable force. He captured a vast number of merchantmen, and was, for a short time, the terrour of the Archipelago.

a loss what measures to pursue. Never shall I forget the melancholy and disgraceful figure which he made. Instead of encouraging his men to perform their duty, and, if they were to fall, to sell their lives dearly; with a countenance which unveiled the faintness of his heart, he kept walking hastily up and down the deck, exclaiming at every other step, in a most disconsolate accent, "Ah! nous sommes tous perdus." I never witnessed an instance of such base and dastardly cowardice, and my feelings were so exasperated, that I almost longed to throw him into the sea. Our situation became every moment more critical; and the sailors, finding that their captain was incapable of directing them any longer, fired, without orders, two of our largest guns, which were so well pointed, that the balls fell within a few feet of the enemy's vessel. This resolute conduct alarmed the pirates so much, that they instantly hoisted the Russian colours, and, after some hesitation, shifted their sails, and steered for the coast of the Morea.

The object of these wretches is a surprise, or an attack, where they suspect that scarcely any resistance can be made. A contest on equal terms they uniformly decline, and will seldom encounter, even an inferior force, if it be but well prepared to receive them. This, in truth, is generally the case with those who are engaged in a bad cause. They are sometimes led on by desperation to perpetrate the most daring acts, but they seldom possess that steady, determined resolution, which is the result of a good conscience, and which, by awakening circumspection, so frequently, in the honourable career of duty, ensures success.

It is altogether disgraceful to the maritime powers of Europe, that these robbers should not only be allowed to insult their flags, and to commit, with impunity, the most atrocious depredations, but that they should even be encouraged, by the tributes they receive, to persist in a course of life, which is equally destructive of justice, morality, and national independence.

When our valiant captain conceived that all danger was over, he gradually regained his scattered spirits, and reassumed his consequential strut. His imagination now began to operate, and painted him to his own eyes in such splendid colours, that, whenever he spoke with a vessel at sea, he boasted of his exploits, and recounted how gallantly he had beaten off a piratical enemy of double his force. I was almost tempted to divulge the secret, which would probably have put a period to his loquacious gasconades. How frequently it happens, that the man, who makes himself the hero of his own stories, and is continually relating the prodigies he has performed, is the most apt to yield to an alarm, and the first to desert his post in the hour of peril. True courage acts when the occasion presents itself, and is silent and modest when it is past; it leaves to others the office of the panegyrist, and scorns the undignified occupation of self-applause.

On the 26th, we had advanced twenty leagues beyond Cerigo, when the wind, changing to the north, and blowing rather freshly, obliged us to tack about, and, re-measuring the twenty leagues, we took shelter behind this once celebrated island. Here we again had a sight of the very piratical vessel which had so much annoyed us the day before: but, being now in company with an Imperial ship, we had no danger to apprehend.

This island is the ancient Cythera, so frequently the theme of the poets of antiquity. It was here that Venus is fabled to have first landed, when she rose, with resplendent majesty, from the foam of the sea; and where she was worshipped, by the inhabitants, in a magnificent temple, dedicated to her memory. But it no longer possesses those attractive charms, which have been so highly celebrated, and which, probably, never existed, but in the glowing imaginations of its inspired bards. Instead of being the abode of plenty, and the residence of the laughing goddess and

her graces, of the pleasures of love and the refinements of taste, it exhibits nothing but parched heaths and barren rocks, which scarcely produce a sufficient supply for its scanty population. At present, it belongs to the Venetians, and is the last remnant of their once splendid dominion in the Levant.

Whilst we lay at anchor, I kept my eyes almost continually fixed on the Morea, the modern appellation of the Peloponnesus, once the theatre of actions which have ennobled the name and character of man; once the favourite resort of the muses; once the seat of enlightened eloquence, and profound erudition; once the prolific nursery of legislators, philosophers, and heroes. When we contrast its former with its present state; when we compare the soul of a Socrates or a Plato, with the blind and brutal instincts and appetites of its actual possessors; we shrink, with mingled shame and compassion, from the task of investigation, and wish to draw a

veil over the infirmities and degeneracy of the human mind.

At the point of cape Malea, now called Angelo, formerly stood the magnificent temple of Apollo. But the Turks spare nothing. Even the majestic ruins of the temple of Minerva, which still attract so many strangers to the hallowed spot where Athens once flourished, is suffering every day from the indiscriminate vengeance of their destructive hands.

The wind being rather favourable, on the 27th, in the morning, we left Cerigo, and, after being tossed about for three successive days in the Archipelago, took refuge in the port of Milo *.

In ancient times, this island was flourishing and populous, and, during the Peloponnesian war, distinguished itself by the long and vigorous resistance which it made against the efforts of the Athenians to

* The ancient Melos. This was the birth-place of the celebrated Diagoras, surnamed the Atheist, who was banished from Athens in the 91st Olympiad, for denying the existence of the Gods.

subdue it. Even so late as the beginning of this century, it was a place of considerable consequence, and the French merchants, who were then settled in it, carried on an extensive commerce. In those days, the corsairs were accustomed to bring all their prizes to this port to dispose of them, which occasioned a vast influx of strangers from every part of the Archipelago, and kept up the spirit of adventure and speculation. But this scene of prosperity has since completely vanished. The French have abandoned the island; their churches, and the convent of Capuchins which they had founded, are in ruins; and nothing is, at present, exhibited but a disgusting picture of misery and desolation.

The two principal towns, which have by degrees dwindled to villages, do not contain above a thousand or twelve hundred inhabitants, and the deplorable condition of their houses bespeaks their indolence and poverty. One of them, named Castor, stands on the summit of a rugged rock, at the entrance of the harbour, and

has a very romantic appearance. The other, which is called Milo, possesses an inland situation. It is considered as the metropolis, is better built and peopled, and abounds with churches and priests, with a Greek bishop at their head, who draws from the superstition of his flock a decent revenue. All the inhabitants are Greeks, except the judge, who is a Turk, and who is invested with a sufficient degree of power to answer the purposes of tyranny and extortion. They are a slothful, dissipated race; and it is no uncommon practice, after basking the whole of the morning in the sun, to consume the remainder of the day in drinking and gambling.

In their trifling commercial transactions with the vessels which visit their port, like other Greeks, they are much addicted to chicane and low cunning. A particular instance of this nature fell under my own observation. One of them, who had purchased some bottles of our sailors, attempted to pay for them in false dollars.

On being detected, he betrayed no signs of confusion; but, pledging his word that it was merely a mistake, he deliberately put his hand into another pocket, and produced a bag of good money.

Having consumed all the poultry we brought with us from Marseilles, as soon as we landed we went in quest of a fresh stock; but it was extremely scarce, and at such an extravagant price, that we were discouraged from purchasing any. Although I paid very liberally for my passage, our fare on board was far from being sumptuous. This, however, I little regarded; but what rendered our meals more than necessarily uncomfortable was, that the captain would never consent to dine in the cabin, but spread a dirty cloth on the deck, with a weight at each corner to prevent the wind, which was frequently very piercing, from blowing it away. We were not provided with chairs, and were obliged to tuck our legs under us, in the Turkish fashion, to accustom us, I suppose, to the manners of the country we were about to

visit. At eight o'clock every evening the crew regularly assembled to prayers, at which time I retired to bed by the glimmering of a lamp, for our valiant commander was afraid to trust me with a candle. I used to grumble at first; but finding that all remonstrance was vain, I bore my misfortunes with tolerable patience, and reconciled matters as well as I could, by firmly resolving, in future, to avoid, if possible, undertaking a voyage in a French merchantman.

Before we returned on board, one of the papas or priests, whom we found standing at the door of his house, politely invited us in, and presented us with pipes and coffee. This was a mark of hospitality which I was well enough disposed properly to appreciate; but what greatly enhanced its value was, the sight of a lovely girl of fifteen, to whom he introduced us. He told us, that she was betrothed to a young man, who had been obliged to undertake an excursion to one of the neighbouring islands, and who, on his return, which was

looked for every day, was to marry her. Nothing could be more interesting than her countenance. It betrayed a mixture of hope and fear, of inward satisfaction and tender anxiety; feelings which so naturally arise in the breast of a young and ingenuous maiden, on the point of forming the most hazardous and eventful connexion of life.

The soil, which is naturally fertile, and which formerly yielded in abundance olives, figs, and grapes, is now badly cultivated, and consequently unproductive. In some spots a little cotton is grown, and here and there a field of barley is seen; but the pasturage is scanty, and the cattle diminutive and lean.

The climate is extremely unhealthy, and the people in general have a sickly appearance. The most prevalent disorders are epidemic fevers and the dropsy, supposed to be generated by the pestiferous influence of the air, and the badness of the water, which is strongly impregnated with sulphur: and such is the ignorance of

those who profess medicine, that very little relief is to be expected from the efforts of their skill.

Almost every part of the island furnishes proofs of the vast quantity of mineral substances that is incorporated with the earth. There are several caverns, entirely incrusted with concretions of vitriol and alum, where the heat of the atmosphere is so excessive, that it is impossible to remain in them above two or three minutes. Smoke is frequently seen issuing from the crevices in the soil, which is in a perpetual state of fermentation; and, even on the margin of the sea, in many places, there are springs of water hot enough to boil an egg*. The alum has always been held in high estimation, and the salt-pits, which are numerous, produce excellent salt. These two articles constitute the principal traffic of the natives.

* By way of experiment, we put an egg in this water, and let it remain there for several minutes, at the expiration of which, it was hot through, though not sufficiently done to please me.

The Miliots, from the frequent voyages which they undertake to the different islands of the Archipelago, are expert sailors, and are often employed as pilots to the trading vessels which are unacquainted with the navigation of that sea.

The women are fanciful in their dress, which, notwithstanding, is, in many respects, clumsy and unbecoming. They wear their petticoats extremely short; a fashion, I should not have objected to, did they not, at the same time, encumber their legs with folds of linen, which totally destroy all elegance and symmetry of shape. They also paint their cheeks with a powder which is extracted from some marine plant, and, by the expression of their eyes, plainly indicate their love of admiration. But in this respect, you will say, they are by no means singular; for love of admiration is the universal propensity of the sex; and perhaps, it is displayed here in more lively colours, only because the restraints on nature are not so severe, or the artifices

and refinements so numerous, as in the polished countries of Europe.

There are several chapels and monasteries dispersed over the island, some of which stand in very agreeable situations. The high points of land command various views of the neighbouring islands of Polino, Kimoli, and Siphanto. Of these, the two former are barren and badly peopled: but Siphanto, which is the ancient Siphnos, is happy in climate, fertility, and population. The gold and silver mines, which are so frequently mentioned by the ancients, are either unexplored from the ignorance, or concealed by the prudence, of its present possessors.

The harbour, as Nature has formed it, is one of the finest and most capacious in the world. It is nearly circular, and is surrounded by lofty hills. The entrance, which is on the western side, is large enough to admit a vessel of any burden, and, at the distance of about half a mile, is covered by an immense rock, called Antimilo: so that, from whatever quarter

the wind may blow, the shipping within is secure. The anchorage is excellent, and a few yards from the shore the water is five or six fathoms deep, and so limpid that the bottom may be easily discerned. There is, however, this disadvantage attending the harbour, that vessels cannot possibly get out with a northerly wind, and are, consequently, sometimes liable to very serious detentions.

In this, as in most of the other Greek islands, there is both a land and capitation tax, which is levied by officers, appointed by the Porte, who are very rigorous in the discharge of their duty, and who, also, never neglect to repay themselves handsomely for the trouble of collection.

During our detention at Milo, we went ashore almost every day; but always quitted it with the wish of taking our final leave. We received, in return, frequent visits from the inhabitants, many of whom came for the purposes of traffic, and others merely to gratify an idle curiosity.

Amongst others, we made acquaintance

with a poor Venetian captain, whose vessel had been wrecked in a gale of wind, as he was endeavouring to enter the harbour; and who gave us a melancholy history of his adventures. He said, that he knew not what was to become of him, as he had but a distant prospect of meeting with a conveyance to his own country, and the Greeks had already pillaged him of the greatest part of the merchandize, which he had saved from the ravages of the sea. How humiliating is the reflection, that a correspondence of manners, between this people and the inhabitants of one of the most polished countries of Europe, should be discovered, in one of the basest acts that can degrade the character of man! You will immediately perceive, that I advert to the practice of a few savages, who are stationed on the Cornish coast, and who derive a livelihood from the plunder of the shipwrecked mariner. If the stories, which I have frequently listened to with horrour and indignation, were not confirmed beyond the possibility

of doubt, I could never have imagined that such monsters were of British growth. To take advantage of a man, who is an unequal opponent, is the act of a coward: but to strip, of what little he still possesses, the unfortunate being, who throws himself on your mercy; who implores your assistance; and whose life and fortune might be rescued by a trifling exertion of charity; is a conduct so much at variance with the common feelings of nature, that we are at a loss how to account for the predominance of such barbarous and complicated depravity. Why is the law, in these cases allowed to remain inactive? Surely, a proper degree of vigilance and exertion might prevent these inhuman depredations, and, in time, redeem the long-lost character of that inhospitable shore. The English are mild and generous, perhaps above every other people. Why then should such an odious reproach be suffered to be thrown on them by the execrable and daring atrocities of a few blood-thirsty pirates?

On the 1st of April, we weighed anchor; but were unfortunately driven back the following day. On the 3d, the wind, favouring us a second time, we took our departure at five in the evening, and, early the next morning, passed between Tino and Nicaria, the modern appellations of Tenos and Icaria. On the former, in ancient times, there was a magnificent temple, consecrated to Neptune. It is still very fruitful, producing a plentiful harvest of excellent wine and figs, and is noted for its silk, which is manufactured, by the industry of the inhabitants, into stockings and other articles, and forms a considerable branch of commerce. The women of this island, who are very pretty, are dispersed all over the Levant in the capacity of servants. They preserve their native dress and customs, and, such is their attachment to their country, that, as soon as they have amassed enough to live at ease, they almost always return.

Nicaria derives its name from Icarus, the son of Dædalus, who, in his flight from

Crete, was drowned near the coast *. It is mountainous and barren, and the inhabitants, who are not numerous, are inconceivably lazy and miserably poor. The only traffic they carry on is in fir and oak planks, with which their woods furnish them in abundance. They possess, however, one distinguishing and enviable characteristic, their dialect being allowed to approach nearer to the ancient Greek than that of any other modern people.

I almost regretted our progress during the night, as I missed the opportunity of seeing Paros, and Naxos, and Delos, along whose shores we sailed. These three islands are celebrated in the history of ancient Greece. The former gave birth to Polygnotus the painter, and to Archilochus the inventor of iambic verse. Its marble was so much esteemed, that it was transported into all parts of Greece, for the construction of temples, and palaces, and statues: and it was here that, in the last

* See Ovid. Met. lib. viii.

century, the Arundelian marbles were discovered, which are preserved at Oxford with such religious care, which have extended the light of chronology, and exercised the talents and learning of a Selden.

Naxos was the birth-place of Bacchus, and the scene of his amours with the beautiful Ariadne. The God continued, for many centuries, the chief object of adoration among its inhabitants, who, in testimony of their devotion, erected a magnificent temple to his honour. The temple has perished; the divinity of the hero is no longer acknowledged; but the operations of nature have been uniform, and the island is still distinguished for its fertility, its gaiety, and its wine.

Delos, which is considered as the central island of the Cyclades, and about which the imagination of poets has invented so many fables, is, at present, barren and almost depopulated; but it was the birth-place of Apollo and Diana, and has been celebrated by the muse of Pindar, Callimachus, and Horace. Here it was that

the famous Oracle, which, for many ages, was venerated by the superstition of all nations, delivered its mysterious answers. Here it was, that an enlightened people flocked, every five years, from all parts of Greece, to assist at the games which were instituted in honour of the god of verse. Here it was, that the majestic temple of Apollo stood, which was an object of adoration throughout the civilized countries of the globe, on which kings lavished their treasures, and artists their skill.

To those who are fond of the sea, nothing can be more delightful than sailing about the Archipelago, where the scenery is almost perpetually shifting, and where you seldom remain, above a few hours, without being relieved from the tedious and vapid sight of a boundless expanse of water, which, however it may strike at first from its novelty and grandeur, soon loses its attractions, and palls upon the sense.

In the afternoon we had a fine view of

Scio, one of the most populous and fertile islands in the Archipelago. For its wine and figs it has always been celebrated. It also yields, in abundance, honey, oil, and a variety of fruits and gums. Many of the mountains are covered with valuable timber, and the plains and vallies are adorned with verdant meads, and delicious groves of oranges, lemons, mulberries, pomegranates, and myrtles. The cultivation of silk is very much attended to, and is manufactured by the inhabitants into damasks, velvets, brocades, and various other stuffs, which are richly embroidered with gold and silver. But the production, for which it is most highly distinguished, is its mastic, which is the finest in the world. This gum distils itself from the lentisque tree, and is considered by the Turks and Greeks, who are continually chewing it, as a strengthener of the stomach, and purifier of the breath. On account of the superior quality of that which is grown on this island, the grand seignor reserves it for the use of himself

and the ladies of his harem, and sends, annually, an aga to collect it. It is gathered and cleansed with the greatest care; and, whilst the harvest lasts, a strong guard is stationed, day and night, round the plantations to secure them from plunder.

The town of Scio is of considerable extent, and is more regularly and substantially built than any other in the Levant, which is to be attributed to its having remained so long in the possession of the Venetians and Genoese, who, when they were driven from the country, left many of their customs and arts behind them. The Sciots are a shrewd, enterprising people, and some of the merchants are deeply engaged in trade, and live in great splendour. They are polished in their manners, and the women, who are remarkable for their beauty, are very thoughtless and volatile in their deportment, and, in their dress, very fantastic*.

* Although we have no direct intercourse with Scio, a British consul is established there. He is

Opposite the town of Scio, on the Asian coast, lies Chesmé, so celebrated for the signal naval victory, which the Russians, in the month of July 1770, gained over the Turks. Under the command of count Orlow, with nine sail of the line and six frigates, they attacked the Turkish fleet, consisting of twenty-five large ships, in the very harbour of Chesmé, to which they had retreated for safety. By the judicious management of the Russian fire-ships, this formidable force was entirely consumed, except a few small vessels, which were captured. Never was victory more complete; and had the Russians followed up their success, and taken advantage of the consternation which prevailed, they might, perhaps, have given a fatal blow to the independence of the Ottoman empire*.

generally a native, and, from the privileges attached to the office, there is always a strong competition for the appointment.

* See a particular and spirited account of this action, Voy. Pittoresque de la Grèce, p. 94.

I have since learnt that the Russians were entirely

The wind continuing northerly, we were obliged to advance within a few miles of Mitylene, before we could double the point of land which forms the gulph of Smyrna.

This island is the ancient Lesbos, near

indebted for their success to the dexterous management and intrepid conduct of admiral Elphinstone, commodore Greig, and lieutenant Dugdale, three British officers in their service, who prepared the fire ships, and directed the movements of the squadron. Orlow, as every one knows, for reasons of the most diabolical nature, was one of the many favourites of Catharine; and de Choiseul, willing to flatter an abandoned, but powerful, Princess, by attributing the victory to him, offered an incense which he knew would be graciously received. What, however, the ignorance, or the design, of one Frenchman has omitted, the justice of another has inserted; and it must be very gratifying to every Englishman to know, that the account of this action given by L'Eveque, in his history of Russia, is the authentic one.

The fame of all former victories has, however, been since eclipsed by that which lord Nelson gained over the French at Aboukir; a victory, which, whether considered as the result of bravery or skill, far surpasses in splendour every thing recorded in history.

whose shores the Athenians gained their splendid victory over the Lacedemonian fleet, commanded by Callicratidas *. In those days, it was the seat of learning and the polite arts, and as distinguished for its dissipation as its genius. It gave birth to Pittacus, Alcæus, Sappho, Terpander, Theophrastus, and several other illustrious philosophers and poets; and here it was that Aristotle studied, and Epicurus taught. It was one of the last islands that remained, in the possession of the Christians, after the subjugation of Constantinople by the Turks; and, though the population has considerably dwindled, its cultivation has not been neglected, and it is still fruitful in wine and figs. The most remarkable circumstance, attending its modern history, is, that one of the vil-

* This event happened in the second year of the 93d Olympiad, and the twenty-fifth of the Peloponnesian war. Conon, who commanded the Athenians, after being twice defeated, at last terminated the contest by the total overthrow and death of his adversary.—See Xenophon, lib. i. Hist. Græc.

lages is entirely peopled by lepers. These unfortunate inheritors of disease are not suffered to have any communication with the other inhabitants, but they intermarry among themselves, and are said to carry on the various concerns of life, with as much cheerfulness and zeal, as if they were free from the ravages of this cruel distemper.

On the 4th, in the morning, we entered the gulph of Smyrna. It is bounded on each side by high mountains, which are clothed with the brightest verdure, and present a scenery that is truly romantic. We had not advanced far before we came to a village, which is supposed to be the spot where Clazomene once stood, a city frequently mentioned in the history of ancient Greece.

Owing to a dead calm, an obstacle which increased my anxiety to arrive, we did not come in sight of the marine castle till the morning of the 6th. It is situated on the sea shore, and is a large square stone structure, flanked with bastions, and plant-

ed with a few large rusty cannons, which, when considered as a place of defence, only serve to render it contemptible. I, however, viewed it with the most lively satisfaction, as it enabled me to contemplate the speedy conclusion of an irksome voyage, and a happy release from a most unpleasant confinement. Every vessel, at its departure from Smyrna, pays, as a kind of tribute to this fortress, a dollar and a cartridge of powder, which are perquisites allowed to the officers established there, and constitute nearly the whole of their stipend.

Shortly after passing it, I was gratified with the sight of Smyrna, whose situation, as we approached, I had time to observe, and to admire. It is built on the declivity of a hill, on whose summit are the ruins of a spacious castle, which commands every part of the city, and which, if in repair, and properly fortified, might enable it to make a stout defence. On the opposite side, it is washed by the sea, which forms

one of the most capacious and beautiful bays in the world.

I had observed in the gulph, and even within a few miles of the harbour, several armed boats, crowded with men, who, on inquiry, I found were Barbary pirates, hovering about, in quest of prey, and watching for an opportunity to surprise some defenceless vessel. I needed no stronger proof to be convinced of the debility and corruption of the Turkish government.

About five o'clock in the afternoon, I landed, and was immediately conducted to Mr. Perkins's house, where I had the mortification to learn that the family was in the country. My impatience to see my brother* was, however, too great to brook delay. I therefore immediately set

* My brother had been staying at Smyrna, in the house of the above gentleman, for upwards of two years. One of the principal inducements which took me so far from home was, that I might have the pleasure and advantage of returning with him.

off for Bournabat (a village at which Mr. Perkins has his summer residence) and, in the course of an hour, had the happiness of embracing a brother and a friend.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XI.

Smyrna, April 23, 1792.

SEVEN cities dispute the honour of Homer's birth. According to the best founded opinions, Smyrna is alone entitled to the claim. A spot of ground is shewn, on which it is conjectured the school of that divine poet stood, and within whose walls he is supposed to have finished his immortal Iliad. In those days, it might have been insignificant in point of extent and population. Through succeeding ages, the production of perhaps the sublimest genius, that the world ever saw, has been a glorious and enviable distinction.

Smyrna, notwithstanding the various revolutions and disasters which it has experienced, is still a considerable city, being

about a mile and a half in length, and nearly of the same breadth. The inhabitants are composed of Turks, Greeks, Jews, Armenians, and Franks, and are computed to amount to about one hundred thousand*.

All the Europeans, who are not subject to the grand seignor, are indiscriminately called *Franks*; and, at present, they consist of British, French, Dutch, Neapolitans, Venetians, and Ragusans, who have each a consul appointed, by their respective states, to watch over the interests of their trade. These consuls are held in high consideration by the Turks; are allowed janizaries for the defence of their persons; and have even the power

* The population of Smyrna has wonderfully increased within the last sixty years. It is at present, by many, rated as high as one hundred and thirty thousand. As, however, they have no means of ascertaining the exact number, their opinions must, in a great measure, be founded on conjecture. I have, on that account, avoided the extreme of calculation on this head, and am probably nearer the truth.

of extending their protection to a certain number of individuals who belong to the Turkish government.

The admirable situation of Smyrna, standing on a central point between Constantinople, Aleppo, and Salonica, and the various privileges and immunities which are granted to the Franks, have combined to distinguish it for its commercial spirit, and to render it one of the great marts for almost all the productions of the East.

Since my arrival here, part of my leisure time has been employed in making inquiries concerning the commerce of this extensive empire; and I shall, however irrelevant it may, at first view, appear to female contemplation, take the liberty of communicating the result of them to you. I am sure you will not repent reading it, for commerce in its outline embraces an extensive and noble field for meditation, and must ever be regarded as an object of interest and curiosity by every inquisitive mind. It is the grand machine which

stimulates the exertions of industry and genius; which excites the spirit of enterprise; and which, by establishing a friendly and lucrative intercourse between independent states, most powerfully conduces to preserve peace, to remove prejudices, to supply mutual wants, to circulate mutual advantages, and to mingle, as it were, into one mass, nations, and languages, and customs. It is, indeed, in every point of view, an important subject for discussion; and, after what I have premised, I am confident there will be no occasion for further apology.

Considering the local advantages which Turkey possesses; the difference of its climate; the extensive course of its numerous navigable rivers; the immense circuit of its seas; and the infinite variety of its productions; it seems to have been designed, by Nature, to take the lead amongst the commercial nations of the world. But, unfortunately, the absurd prejudices of its people, and the odious vices of its government, are at perpetual enmity with pro-

gressive improvement, and discourage every description of individual exertion. The despotism and superstition of Turkey are injurious to its population, to its culture, but, above all, to its trade. Before a man can be prevailed on to engage in any undertaking, which demands the application of industry and genius, and the expenditure of money and time, he first requires a security for the reward of his labours, and an indemnity for the freedom of his actions; for commerce appears to be that pursuit which thrives least under penalties and restraints. But, in Turkey, where the rich and the poor live in perpetual distrust and hatred of each other; where intestine broils and jealousies are continually fomenting between the governors and the governed; where whole provinces are frequently devastated and ruined by the pride and avarice of the pachas; where there are few conveniences, and but little safety, for the inland transportation of goods; where bands of ferocious robbers appear in such force, that they

can effect their predatory excursions with impunity; where a moral sense of justice acts as no restraint on the conduct of men; and where nothing but strength can insure protection: under all these incumbrances and difficulties, it is, perhaps, more surprising that it should have reached, than that it should not have surpassed, its present extent.

Merchants, from most of the states of Christendom, are established in all the great cities of the Ottoman empire; but the principal part of the foreign trade is engrossed by the British, the French, the Dutch, and the Venetians. As we are chiefly interested in what regards England, I shall confine myself principally to our connexion with the Levant, alluding, however, now and then, to other countries, as they oppose, or interfere with, our interests.

The French were the first Christian people that formed an alliance with the Turks*; and, in consequence of that

* See Robertson's Charles V. vol. iii. p. 147.

priority of intercourse, have cemented a firmer friendship than any other European nation, and secured many privileges and advantages which we have never been able to obtain*.

The earliest commercial treaty, between England and Turkey, took place in the reign of Elizabeth, when the company was first established†. Since that period, except when checked by the insuperable consequences of war, the connexion has been gradually expanding, and constitutes, at

* This influence, which so materially opposed our commercial views to this quarter, we had completely overthrown by one of the most brilliant events of the late war. What, however, was gained in the field has been, not only in this, but in many other instances, unaccountably lost in the cabinet; and the revival of the ascendency of the French party at Constantinople is to be entirely attributed to our own mismanagement and neglect. One of the leading objects of the present French government is to regain Egypt by any means. We have already had proof of their good faith. Our confidence ought to be commensurate.

† See Anderson's Origin of Commerce, vol. ii. p. 149.

present, a lucrative and extensive branch of traffic *.

The articles, exported from Great Britain to Turkey, are either of our own manufacture, or are commodities which we receive from our settlements in the East and West Indies; viz. shalloons, fine cloths called mahoots, lead, lead shot, cutlery, pistols, iron in bars, tin, tin plates, indigo, cochineal, loaf sugar, gunpowder, butter, pepper, pimento, muslins, coffee, and logwood. The imports consist chiefly of raw materials which are consumed by our own manufactures, and are, cotton, goats' and sheeps' wool, yarn, mohair, silk, madder roots, yellow berries, sponges, carpets,

* On a comparison of the exports and imports from the company's books for the three successive years of 1785, 86, and 87, it appears that the total value of goods, from Smyrna alone, to this country, amounted, on an average, to £.463,349 sterling, and those sent from London to Smyrna to £.423,548. For 1790, 91, and 92, the three years preceding the war, the exports and imports, to and from the same place, amounted, on an average, the one to £.779,610, the other to £.848,280 sterling.

black fruit, figs, wax, Angora goats' skins, with the following drugs; viz. aloes, scammony, senna, opium, gums galbanum, arabic, tragacanth, mastich, and ammoniac. We, thus, in every point of view, reap the benefits of this connexion, for the importations employ our industry, and call forth our ingenuity, and the exportations may be considered as an aggregate of what that industry and ingenuity produce.

The principal articles which are furnished by the French, are West India produce, cloths, and bullion, which last they export to a very large amount. The situation of Marseilles, whence all their merchant-vessels sail, which are bound for the Levant, gives them a considerable superiority over us, as the position of its harbour is very convenient, and not above half the distance of any of our ports. The additional advantage of a lazaretto for the reception of merchandize from the East, also, allows their vessels to perform, at all times, a direct voyage, without subjecting their country to the danger of infection

from the plague; for the laws by which it is regulated are judicious and rigidly enforced. When the goods are once deposited, and arranged, in the magazines, although they are not suffered to be touched, they may be inspected at a small distance, so that bargains may be contracted whilst they are under quarantine, and the merchant sustains scarcely any inconvenience from adventitious charges or delay.

In the article of seraglio cloths, which are sent from France to Turkey, to a very considerable value, we have been but faint competitors; and although the ingenuity of our manufacturers may, at some future period, be able to rival the quality, yet I fear the difference in the price will always prove an obvious hindrance to their introduction at the different marts in the Levant. Our shalloons, however, are held in high repute, and have materially lessened the sale of the French cloths; and, in the articles of cutlery and tin, we are without a rival.

From the above sketch it is manifest, that if this branch of our trade were to receive proper encouragement, it would become a considerable source of growing industry and revenue to the country. There is, however, one grand impediment which cramps its energy, and operates as an insurmountable barrier against the fulness of success. This is the want of a lazaretto, with which almost every other state, commercially connected with Turkey, is provided. From this deficiency our trade is sometimes subjected to burdens and inconveniencies which are so seriously felt, that they almost amount to a prohibition, and the country is exposed to the risk of catching a most infectious and loathsome disease*.

* To guard against the contagion of this dreadful scourge, our government has thought fit to order that no vessel shall be suffered to load directly for England, until forty days subsequent to the last accident of the plague. If an accident happen whilst she is loading, all communication with the shore must, from that moment, cease for the above space of time, when she may continue to take in her cargo. But if a vessel,

The duties imposed on the different commodities which arrive at Smyrna from

destined for England, receive any part of her cargo, or if any person belonging to her have the least intercourse with those on shore, whilst the plague shews itself in the slightest degree, our consul is bound to issue a foul bill of health, constraining her to make a circuitous voyage, and to perform six weeks quarantine at Malta, Messina, Venice, or Leghorn, which, besides the enormous expence that is inevitably incurred by the landing and reshipping of the goods, and various other contingencies, occasions a detention of from six to seven months. The hardships and inconveniencies of these regulations are sufficiently palpable, nor do they at all conduce to the promotion of their principal object, a security against the plague.

The sole advantage of them is felt by the Dutch, who, by a very simple operation, forestal our markets, and expose us to this most melancholy of all afflictions. Whilst our merchant-ships are performing quarantine in distant and foreign ports, the Dutch, who are by no means so scrupulous, suffer their own vessels to proceed directly to Holland, where they are subjected to a partial, slovenly quarantine, which is complied with, by shipping a few bales of goods on board lighters which lie along side them, for the space of ten days or a fortnight. Sometimes, even this slight inconvenience is evaded, and, immediately on the arrival of a trading vessel from Turkey, the

foreign parts, are not under any general regulation (some nations being much

merchandize is removed into ships dispatched from England purposely for their reception, and, by this manœuvre, escapes quarantine altogether. They are then expedited to some English port, where they arrive several months before those belonging to our regular trade, and of course reap all the benefit which arises from an early supply of our markets.

It is a notorious fact, that about ten thousand bales of cotton, principally from Holland, are imported into England in this evasive manner, and not above seven thousand in the regular trading British vessels. Many other articles, which are consumed by our manufactures, are received nearly in the same proportion. Now, a lazaretto would at once suppress this injurious traffic, a greater encouragement would be given to our shipping, and those profits which at present accrue to the Dutch, would be shared by our own merchants and manufacturers, who are certainly entitled to every indulgence and preference.

It is an object which might also be very easily accomplished without any expence to government, as the increased prosperity of the trade could well bear a small duty on cottons and other articles of importation, which would be sufficient to defray the charges of the establishment.

In consequence of a memorial from the Turkey company, presented to the board of trade in the year 1792, the measure was so far acceded to, that orders were given for the purchase of a piece of ground, near

more favoured than others), nor are the custom-house laws, in any respect, strict. When smuggled goods are seized, they are not confiscated, but are only liable to pay double the amount of the duties, or some

Standgate Creek, on the Kentish coast, for the erection of a lazaretto; but when the present war commenced, so many objects of greater moment pressed on the attention of ministers, that the plan was abandoned. If, however, this branch of the commercial interests of the country is attended to, it will be speedily renewed. It is, moreover, a consideration which, at this moment, presents itself with peculiar energy and weight. Both the French and the Dutch, in consequence of foreign war and internal distractions, have been completely degraded from their rank in the scale of commercial nations. Their trade, in every quarter of the globe, has been nearly annihilated, and we are, at present, as far as commerce is concerned, not only without a rival, but almost without a competitor. It will depend on our own skill and management, on the return of peace, what portion of the trade of the world we reserve to ourselves, and we ought certainly to be watchful to secure it, before it has time to revert to its old and natural channels. This, in fact, is the only method or chance we have of indemnifying ourselves, in any important degree, for the sufferings to which a bitter and implacable enemy has so long exposed us.

such moderate fine; a method of proceeding which would, by no means, answer with us.

All commercial concerns, between the Franks and the Turks are conducted through the medium of the Jews and Armenians, who act as brokers, and buy and sell every article of merchandize.

These two nations are also deeply engaged in business on their own account, and have connexions with all the great cities in the East. With the character of the Jews every body is sufficiently acquainted. That of the Armenians is not so generally understood. They are no longer a great, an opulent, and a powerful people, governed by their own princes, and asserting their own independence. Their country has experienced numerous revolutions. It has been overrun and subjugated by different powers; and, under the dominion of a foreign yoke, all national spirit and pride have completely evaporated. Their attachment to the land of their ancestors is gone; and

they are now dispersed, over different parts of Asia and Europe, in the character of merchants and priests. They are sober, industrious, polite, and hospitable. They have scarcely any ambition. They never aspire at distinction in the luminous career of politics or arms ; but content themselves with the humble and peaceful occupations of trade, which they pursue with indefatigable zeal. They are reserved in their manners, rigid in their morals, and, generally speaking, honest in their dealings. They are devout Christians, and scrupulously observe their lents, which last about seven months in the year, during which time they abstain from flesh, and live, almost entirely, on herbs and roots. Their monastic rites are extremely rigorous, restraining their appetites to the absolute necessities of life, and enjoining almost continual prayer or penance and mortification. Their priests are allowed to marry once, but the dignified clergy is denied this indulgence. Their patriarch, who is approved of by the grand seignor, resides

at Ekmiasin, about three leagues from Erivan in Persia, where he holds his court, and derives an ample revenue from a small tax which is levied on every male person, within his spiritual jurisdiction, who has passed his fifteenth year. His authority over the members of the church is absolute; and the place of his residence is regarded with such pious devotion, that those, who are filled with the true spirit of religious zeal, conceive it to be an indispensable act of duty to perform a pilgrimage to it, at least once in the course of their lives. The lower classes of the priesthood are brutally ignorant, and miserably poor; and derive their only support from practising on the credulity of their flock. Although they have long been separated from the Greek church, the outward ceremonies of the two religions are closely allied. Their marriages and burials are attended with considerable pomp, and the conclusion of each respective ceremony is a substantial repast. The women are handsome, which is perhaps one cause of

the jealousy of their husbands, who think it prudent to keep them out of the way of temptation, by detaining them prisoners at home.

There being no carts, all kinds of goods are transported from one part of Smyrna to another on men's shoulders. The porters are consequently very numerous, and, although their profession is considered as degrading, it is so lucrative, that there is always a greater number of candidates than the public service requires. They are appointed by the government; and, to accommodate matters among them, a certain proportion is every year obliged to go out, by rotation, to make room for the pretensions of others. These men, from their continual habits of exertion, are endowed with astonishing muscular strength. The burden they carry is placed on a wooden frame, which is fastened across their shoulders, and hangs a considerable way down their backs; so that when it is a heavy one, they walk with their bodies curved, and their hands resting on their

knees, a position which, to our London porters, would appear to be a very fatiguing one. They however find it the most convenient, and many of them can not only support, but carry, for some distance, a bale of carpets, which generally weighs between six and seven hundred pounds.

When a man fails in trade, in Turkey, he is not cited to appear before any tribunal to have his affairs investigated and settled, nor is any certificate from his creditors requisite, to liberate him from the persecution of future claimants. If he be an honest man, all he has to do, is to surrender his effects, when a division of them is made among his creditors, according to the amount of their respective debts; which ceremony being gone through, he is no longer liable for what remains unliquidated. This method of proceeding gives, however, a great encouragement to those deceptions which the operation even of our severer laws cannot altogether prevent; and it does not unfrequently happen, that a rascal pretends he can no

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longer carry on his business, whilst his circumstances are still flourishing; and concealing the greatest part of his property, or confiding it to the care of a friend, a fictitious dividend is contrived, and, in the course of a few months, he ventures to resume it.

The streets of Smyrna are narrow, dirty, inconvenient, and badly paved. The architecture of the houses is slovenly and uncouth, and the principal material of which they are built is wood; so that the effects of fire are frequently dreadful. But the Turks, in defiance of all experience, are such confirmed enemies to improvement, that no persuasion can remove their prejudices, or surmount their ignorance. In the year 1778, when almost the whole city was reduced to ashes, by a violent conflagration, the Franks, who were settled there, offered to rebuild it, on a handsome, convenient, and extensive plan, which was drawn out, and submitted to the Turks for their inspection and approbation. They took some little time to consider

on the merits of the proposal; but, as they were unable to conceive how the alteration would promote their interest, they at length resolved to reject it.

Some of the houses, however, belonging to the Franks, who all reside in a street which runs along the harbour, are regularly and substantially built*. The moschs, though not splendid, are numerous,

* The Frank quarter of the town is no longer in this state. Since my departure it has been reduced almost entirely to ashes. Of this tragical event I have received, from a friend, who was an eye-witness of the scene, the following particulars.

On the 10th of March 1797, a number of people, of all nations, assembled at the English hospital, to see the performance of some rope-dancers who had lately arrived. Several of the consuls were among the spectators, and, as is usual, their janizaries were posted at the entrance. During the performance, some Zantiots, who were known to be dissolute, ill-disposed people, approached the door, and insolently demanded admission. On being refused, they attempted to enter by force, which was resisted by the janizaries, one of whom, at last, in order to intimidate them, imprudently fired a pistol in the air. This was the signal of hostilities, and the Zantiots, retiring, shortly returned, in greater force, and well

and the bazar * is extensive, and well supplied. The harbour is capacious and

armed. A serious scuffle commenced, several pistols were discharged by each party, and the business concluded, for that evening, with the death of a janizary, who belonged to a corps eminently distinguished for their lofty spirit and insubordinate manners. His comrades, determined to revenge his death, went, the following morning, to the cadi, and formally demanded that the assassin should, without delay, be delivered into their hands. This demand was immediately communicated to the consuls, who, on their part, complained of the outrage and danger to which they had been exposed. The Venetian consul asserted it was a Russian subject, and the Russian consul, that it was a Venetian subject, who had committed the murder, and this altercation terminated, by their both declaring, that, to whichsoever nation he belonged, he could not now be given up, as he had effected his escape. This peaceable intercourse, between the parties, was but of short duration. The janizaries at length became irritable and impatient, and, collecting in a strong body, insisted, with menaces, on the

* In Turkey the shops are not dispersed through the different streets of a town, as with us; but are collected together in places which are called bazars, or bezestines.

secure, and exhibits a scene of perpetual bustle and business. It is often crowded

the immediate surrender of the guilty person. The consuls, still undetermined how to act, requested time to deliberate, not imagining the shocking catastrophe which was about to follow. Shortly after, the inhabitants, seeing that matters were likely to come to extremities, began to withdraw to their houses, and shut up their shops. All, however, might still have passed without any further tragical event, had not the Sclavonians, on hearing that the Turks were assembled in arms, in a numerous body, in Frank-street, left their vessels, and come ashore. The moment they landed, they repaired to the spot, bent on mischief and bloodshed. The hostile parties no sooner met, than a discharge of fire-arms took place. Which was the aggressor is uncertain; but two Turks were killed at the onset, which so enraged their countrymen, that they set fire to an apothecary's shop, about the middle of the street. The moment of reconciliation was now lost, and, resentment and consternation increasing and spreading on every side, a scene of unspeakable horrour and confusion ensued. There was not time to save merchandize, or furniture, or apparel; all they could hope to preserve was their lives, and that was effected only by a precipitate and clandestine retreat. Almost every house was deserted, and the people, with their wives and children, in a state of the most dreadful distraction and alarm, fled towards the quays, that they might reach

with merchantmen from different parts of the globe, and the European powers in amity with the Turks, particularly the English and French, have generally some

the shipping in the harbour, which they considered as a place of safety. In this project, they were assisted by the diligence and humanity of capt. Stevenson, of the Withywood, who dispatched boats for their reception, and generously provided them with every thing they stood in need of, whilst they were under his protection. They remained on board twenty-four hours, in a state of the most anxious suspense, for they had the mortification to behold their houses in flames, whilst their ears were assailed, at intervals, with the reports made by the explosion of their fire-proof magazines, many of which, from the intensity of the heat, blew up, and others were broken open, and plundered by the Turks and Sclavonians. On their return, the marks of pillage, and devastation, and blood, were everywhere visible. Almost every house in Frank-street was reduced to ashes, and the Armenian quarter of the city suffered nearly the same fate. About twelve hundred Greeks, besides Turks, perished in this affray, and the loss of property sustained, is estimated at seven millions of dollars, which, at the exchange of two shillings, amount to the enormous sum of seven hundred thousand pounds sterling.

The French, through the medium of their am-

frigates riding at anchor. The anchorage is good, and the water so deep, that vessels can approach, within a few yards of the wharf, to unload.

The internal government of the city is managed by a sardar who commands the janizaries, and a cadi who administers justice. But the police is very badly arranged, and riots of the most serious nature, which the civil power is unable to repress, frequently occur. Justice is polluted at its very source. The magistracy is entirely under the influence of the opulent, and, if you can afford to bribe the expounders of the law, you may commit any crime with impunity. The Sclavonians resident in this city are very numerous. They are a savage and lawless race, constantly exciting disturbances, and ever disposed to proceed to acts of the most daring and atrocious violence.

bassador, applied to the Porte for an indemnification, and have, in some measure, obtained it. We are also applying; but have not very sanguine hopes of success.

Notwithstanding the high antiquity of Smyrna *, it can boast of no monuments of former times, sufficiently respectable either to reward the labours, or stimulate the researches, of curiosity. Scarcely any vestiges of those magnificent temples, amphitheatres, and porticos, which are so frequently the theme of the ancient writers, are now discernible. The castle is only remarkable for its extent, and its situation; and although there be no certain tradition of the exact time of its elevation, the style of its architecture affords a sufficient proof that it is the production of a barbarous age †. Near it, there were formerly some

* Smyrna is one of the most ancient cities in the world, and was also one of the seven churches of Asia, spoken of in the Apocalypse. The other six were, Ephesus, Pergamus, Thyatira, Sardis, Laodicea, and Philadelphia.

† Tournefort, in his Travels, vol. iii. p. 380, speaking of this castle, says, it was built by John Ducas.—Chandler, in his Travels into Asia Minor, p. 61, says, that it was re-edified by John Angelus Comnenus.

fine ruins of a theatre, which was built of beautiful marble; but which the Turks have long since completely demolished for the sake of the stone, which was employed in the erection of a bazar and a caravansary. Some trifling remains of a circus, and the skeleton of a church, are still apparent; and the Greeks, who preserve the memory of St. Polycarp, the first bishop of Smyrna, continue to venerate the spot where his ashes are said to repose. Neither are the environs rendered interesting by many visible marks of the splendour of former times. The aqueduct on the road to Sedequi (a village a few miles from the city) which is evidently some remnant of Roman taste and solidity, is the only remarkable monument now extant.

The once celebrated river Meles, on whose banks Homer has often reclined, and where statues and temples were once raised to his honour, is now a small brook, which, in winter time, is not much broader than a ditch, and, in summer, is perfectly dry. On its margin stands a stone pillar,

sacred to the genius of the river, and which is indebted for its elevation to the following incident. The country being afflicted with a pestilence, which made unusual ravages, the terrified inhabitants vowed to erect a monument to the glory of the tutelar divinity of the river, if he would kindly listen to their prayers, and extricate them from the calamities under which they groaned. His godship was propitious, and the vow was fulfilled. At no great distance from this spot, there is a piece of running water, which is allowed to retain the classical appellation of Diana's bath. They have, indeed, in this country a tradition of the fabulous story of Actæon, and they believe it was in this stream, that the amorous youth surprised the chaste goddess and her nymphs. They have retained the errours and superstition of the ancients; but their science and skill in philosophy, in government, and in arts, are, alas! no more.

An amazing number of camels are continually browsing on the hills near Smyrna.

These animals are the principal beasts of burden in most eastern countries, being much better calculated for the purposes of labour than their horses, which, although full of spirit, are diminutive, and incapable of much fatigue. The camels are swift, strong, patient, and tractable. They are taught to lie down to receive their burden, which is placed on their backs with great caution, and their bunch, on account of its tenderness, is first enveloped with folds of thick linen, to secure it from bruises. Several hundreds of them frequently travel in the same caravan, and are tied together in strings of forty or fifty, with a man at their head, mounted on an ass or a mule, who leads them. Their ordinary pace is three miles an hour, and they halt at stated distances *.

* Buffon, with his usual perspicuity, explains the different species of these useful animals. Those with two bunches, which are generally known under the name of dromedary, are peculiar to Turkey. The camel has but one bunch, and is scattered over Arabia, Persia, and almost every region of the East. These

On account of the plague, which had broken out a short time before my arrival, and which was beginning to extend its ravages very fast, my friends advised me not to expose myself, unnecessarily, by walking about the city. Had the Coliseum* reared its stately head in its very centre, however difficult and dangerous

two species, however, engender together, and the produce is considered as the strongest and most valuable animal. According to their strength and size, they can carry a burden of from six to twelve hundred weight, and they can go, for an astonishing length of time, without drink, which, however, is less the effect of habit than of conformation. They are held in such estimation among the Arabians, that they consider them as one of the noblest gifts of heaven, as a sacred animal, without which they could neither travel, nor trade, nor even subsist. Their milk is their ordinary diet, their flesh is nutritive and tender; their hair, which falls every year, is manufactured into a variety of stuffs; and when they are flying from an enemy, they can travel on them, in one day, over fifty leagues of desart. See Buffon, vol. ii. p. 211, quarto edit.

* The modern name of the celebrated amphitheatre at Rome, which was built by Vespasian.

of access, all solicitations would probably have been urged in vain; but, as there was nothing curious to examine, there was no ardour to repress, and I readily consented to be governed by their admonitions.

The fatal consequences of this melancholy disorder have been severely felt, at different periods, in various parts of the globe; but, in this unhappy country, its return is uniformly expected with the spring of the year; a season which, in other regions, appears to have been designed by Providence, to renew the blessings of life, and to awaken the whole creation to the enjoyments of gaiety and health. Towards the middle of July it generally begins to decline, and, from that time, gradually dies away; but in the fall it commonly revives. Its frequent revisitations have been attributed to numerous causes, and although much may no doubt be ascribed to the nature of the climate, still I am convinced, that if the habits of thinking, and the mode of living, of the

people, were to undergo a reform, it would neither be so rapid in its progress, nor so violent in its attacks. They eat very little animal food, nourishing themselves chiefly with herbs, rank butter, and oil, which debilitate and derange the stomach. In their dress they are uncleanly, and change their linen very seldom. They also make frequent use of the warm bath, where they remain for a great length of time, which relaxes the nerves, opens the pores of the skin, and keeps the body in an unnatural state of perspiration. If, therefore, there be any thing of a pernicious quality floating in the air they will surely imbibe it; whilst it might have no effect on people of a more hardy and robust constitution. Add to all these reasons the errours of opinion, and our surprise almost completely disappears.

One of the grand tenets of Mahometanism is predestination. A follower of that absurd and misguided sect firmly believes, that his destiny has been irrevocably fixed from the commencement of the world,

and that he cannot, by any effort either of prudence or exertion, insure the smallest alteration in the most trifling occurrence of his life. He regards the past and the future with the same stupid indifference. He is neither solicitous to obtain happiness, nor to avoid destruction; but rushes into danger with the same apathy with which he smokes his pipe, or drinks his coffee.

One morning, when I was going to pay a visit to our consul, I found a number of people assembled in the court-yard, who begged that I would not advance any nearer, as they were preparing to remove one of the domestics who, the day before, had been seized with the plague. Not wishing to run any unnecessary risk, this intimation was quite sufficient, and I conversed with those in the yard at a respectful distance. Just as I was on the point of taking my leave, a Turk happened to be passing, whose curiosity was attracted by this unusual concourse. He stopped, and, asking the reason, was no sooner informed,

than he went up to the patient, and examined every symptom with the greatest coolness and attention. When he had done, he said that it was a favourable case, and that, in all probability, he would recover in a few days. Notwithstanding this prediction, the poor fellow died the following morning. What became of the Turk, I could never learn; but it is most likely, that he met with the same fate. Thus it appears, that this disorder is *probably* contracted by their manner of living, and is *certainly* extended by their manner of thinking.

It is regarded, by the faculty, as a fever of a most malignant nature. The first symptoms, which are in general manifested, are frequent retchings, attended with a violent head-ach. As the infection spreads, fever, pains at the heart, difficulty of respiration, anxiety of mind, and total debility, are usual concomitants. Shortly after, livid blotches and tumours break out in different parts of the body, particularly under the arms, in the glands of the neck,

and on the thighs; and, in the course of forty-eight hours, or three days, the patient is generally carried off by a coagulation of the blood, occasioned by its corrupted state *. If he escape beyond that period, hopes of his recovery may be entertained.

No infallible remedy, to allay the inveteracy, or to arrest the progress, of this cruel scourge, has hitherto been discovered; and, as if it were inflicted to chastise the unwarrantable folly and confidence of man, applications, which one year have been resorted to with success, have totally failed the next. This spring, at the recommendation of Mr. Baldwin, a gentleman who was formerly the British consul at Alexandria, several patients have derived great benefit and relief, from being steeped in oil, or rubbed with it, at short intervals.

But what principally induces me to believe, that the ravages of this malady are rather to be imputed to the habits and

* The exhalations from dead bodies are not infectious.

opinions of the people, than to the effects of the climate, is a review of this country in ancient times.

The famous plague of Athens, which broke out in the second year of the Peloponnesian war, was, in many respects, exactly similar in its nature and its consequences; but was then regarded as so remarkable a disease, that every stage and symptom are recorded by Thucydides* with the most minute accuracy. We are not to suppose, that the climate has, since those days, undergone any material alteration; for, at the same distance from the equator, the operations of the sun, on a cultivated country, must, in all ages, be nearly alike. But when an epidemic sickness, in the highest degree contagious, has once been engrafted, and the people, instead of striving to counteract and eradicate, adopt every method which can strengthen and mature it, we are not to be astonished if its consequences be violent.

* See Thucydides, lib. ii.

The Turks are so dead to reflection, and so totally regardless of the warnings of experience, that they even make no scruple of wearing the apparel which the deceased had on, at the time of his death.

Owing to the precautions which the Franks take against this disorder, they are rarely affected by it, which is an additional proof, that, with proper care and attention, what depends on the climate may be escaped. From the moment it evidences itself, they are very particular, respecting whom they admit into their houses, and are at great pains to avoid touching even the clothes of a stranger in the streets; it being more easily caught from contact than from respiration. When its consequences begin to be more severely felt, they shut themselves up in their houses; all communication between different families gradually ceases; and, as long as it continues to rage, no person is suffered to enter, or to quit, their premises. Whilst this imprisonment lasts, a man calls every morning to know what provisions

the family requires, which he purchases at the market, and, on his return, lets them fall into a pail of water, placed within the outer gate, for the purpose of receiving them, where they remain soaking a sufficient time to purify them from all possible infection. Every paper which is taken in, is first carefully fumigated, and even money is washed in vinegar, before it is handled.

The Christian subjects of the empire have hospitals, established in the large towns, for the reception of patients afflicted with this disease; and the persons who attend them have generally had what, on account of its extreme virulence, is termed the *mother plague*. The few who recover, after having been afflicted with this excess of the disease, are seldom liable to it a second time. There are, however, now and then, instances to the contrary, which are a sufficient answer to the speculation of those who conceive, that much benefit might result from the practice of

inoculation*. Not many years back two Russian doctors were sent, by the empress, to Smyrna, to make their observations on the nature and effects of the plague. They were so confident of their skill, that, when they visited the Greek hospital, in spite of the remonstrances of their friends, they disdained to use any preventive against infection. The consequence was, they both caught the disorder, and died of it in the course of a few days.

Several pleasant villages surround Smyrna, at the distance of from six to twelve miles, where the Franks have their country seats, and principally reside during the summer months. Those most resorted to

* Of all the discoveries which have contributed to the preservation, and the beauty, of the human species, that relating to the cow-pox, for which we are indebted to the researches and philanthropy of Dr. Jenner, is indisputably the most important. As long as the world endures, mankind will feel the benefit of this fortunate discovery, and the final eradication of one of the most fatal and cruel diseases incidental to our nature may be now looked forward to as no very remote event.

are, Sedequi, Bournabat, and Bugia, of which Bournabat is the largest ; but Sedequi possesses the most agreeable situation.

Teos, the birth-place of Anacreon, formerly a flourishing colony, but now a deserted village, known under the barbarous name of Bodrum, lies on the sea-shore, on the south side of a peninsula opposite Smyrna. The magnificent temple of Bacchus, once the theme of an immortal bard, and the object of veneration of an enlightened people, has long since perished.

At Bournabat, which I frequently visit, there is an excellent inn, kept by a Venetian, with a billiard-room belonging to it, which is much frequented by the Franks in the neighbourhood. I generally go to this village half way by water, and, on getting out of the boat, mount an ass, which conducts me to Mr. Perkins's door. These animals are rather inconvenient, and are sometimes difficult to manage, in the first place, from their innate stubbornness, and in the next, from the breadth of the Turkish saddles, and the shortness

of the stirrups, which are nearly of the same size and shape as an English fire-shovel. The Turks never wear spurs, but, when they want to go faster, goad the beast that carries them with one of the angles of these misshapen instruments.

To those who are fond of the water, nothing can be pleasanter than sailing about the bay, which is surrounded by the most delightful scenery. The boats, that ply for hire, are kept very clean, and some of them are even handsomely decorated. They are shallow, of a long narrow shape, and carry a great deal of sail, so that they cut through the water with rapidity, and require much dexterity in their management. The boatmen are, in general, muscular men, and smoke their pipes all the time they are rowing; but they are, by no means, so chatty as the watermen belonging to the Thames. They pay, however, more attention to their dress, and many of them are gaily clothed in party-coloured turbans and embroidered vests.

Provisions at Smyrna are plentiful and cheap, and the Franks keep excellent tables, which are served up after the French method of cooking. The markets are tolerably well supplied with butcher's meat; and fish, poultry, game, fruit, and vegetables, are in great abundance. The fishery in the bay is so productive, that, after satisfying the wants of the city, a considerable surplus is salted down for exportation. Red mullets and tunnies are caught in high perfection, and oysters, in the season, are brought from Constantinople.

The climate is remarkably fine. In the winter, indeed, rain and even snow are not uncommon; but, during the spring and summer, the sky is so clear and serene that a cloud is an unusual sight. It has, however, its disadvantages. Storms and earthquakes often occur, and, from the middle of June till the latter end of December, the heat is dreadful, the thermometer, in the day-time, frequently rising

as high as one hundred and four *. A refreshing sea-breeze, called the inbat, sometimes springs up towards the evening; but when the wind blows from the north, it is almost insupportable, and the slightest motion becomes a toil. This wind, in its passage, crosses vast deserts of sand, which, being easily penetrated by the rays of the sun, are rendered as hot as a furnace, and it is of such a parching suffocating nature, that I have heard it compared to a current of flame. When the inhabitants perceive it coming, to keep their houses as cool as possible, they shut up all their windows; and, to avoid the most oppressive part of the day, it is customary to lie down on sofas, after dinner, and pass an hour or two in sleep.

The face of the country is romantic and beautiful, consisting chiefly of high mountains †, deep vallies and extensive

* Fahrenheit's scale.

† Some of the mountains are, towards the summit, quite barren, and even destitute of all verdure.

plains, which form an interesting and agreeable contrast. Nothing can be more animated and gay than its appearance in the spring; but, as the summer advances, the vertical rays of the sun burn up the pasturages, and completely destroy all their verdure. The soil is luxuriant, and olives, melons, oranges, figs, and vines*, are cultivated with little trouble; whilst myrtle, eglantine, jessamy, and various aromatic herbs, spring up spontaneously, and perfume the air. It is, however, an observation which generally holds good, that in climes where Nature has been less bountiful, the invention and ingenuity of the human mind will more than restore the level. In warm countries, the same sun which renders the earth prolific, and

In the winter they are frequently covered with snow, which the mountaineers, by digging caverns for it, preserve during the summer months.

* Besides the fruits I have already enumerated, apples, pears, peaches, pomegranates, and various kinds of nuts, are plentiful.

calls forth its fruits, so enervates the inhabitants, and paralyses bodily exertion, that they seldom are endowed with a sufficient degree of activity, to enable them to avail themselves of their natural superiority: whereas, under a more temperate zone, agriculture and botany, engrossing the attention and skill of mankind, generally attain to a high degree of perfection; and thus, the defects of nature are remedied and supplied by the ingenuity and perseverance of art.

Notwithstanding the clumsy and inattentive modes of agriculture which are adopted by the farmers, such is the unassisted fertility of the soil, that the land yields very good grain, several cargoes of which are every year exported from Smyrna. The olive trees, which are in great abundance, produce an excellent oil; but the Turks are unacquainted with the proper method of extracting and clarifying it, and consume the fruit in its natural state.

The figs are esteemed the finest in

the world, both for their flavour and size, and, with the raisins, form a considerable branch of the commerce of the country. During the gathering season, all the ragamuffins in the city are collected in the court-yards, belonging to the different merchants' houses, where they prepare and pack them for exportation, exhibiting a most motly and fantastic scene. A singular regulation, respecting fruit in general, is applied to the English, who are only allowed to import one cargo annually, which is out of compliment to the king, and understood to be for his table. The Turks, however, have too great a regard for their own interests to confine us to the letter of this law.

There is such an abundance of game, and so little danger of its ever being extirpated, that it precludes the necessity of laws, to secure the pleasures of the sportsman to the rich. I could wish, that this were the case in England, or, at least, that that part of our penal code, which relates to sporting, were revised, and so

modified and explained, as to remove those strong and palpable objections, which the bare perusal of it at present creates. Partridges, quails, woodcocks, snipes, wild ducks, teals, thrushes, beccafigs, hares, and rabbits, are astonishingly plentiful. The hares are remarkable for their size, and the beccafigs afford excellent sport to the gunner. They keep fluttering about a tree bearing a red berry, which they peck at without settling. They are very shy if they see any body, but are not much alarmed at the report of a gun, generally returning, in the course of a few minutes, to the same spot. The sportsman, therefore, contrives to conceal himself behind some bush, where he loads his piece at his leisure, and, when he is tired of the amusement, he quits his retreat, and picks up what he has killed. The beccafig is a delicious little bird, and reckoned, by many, equal in flavour to the ortolan, which is held in such high estimation by the susceptible palates of epicures. Wild boars are also to be met with on the

mountains. These the mountaineers hunt with dogs, or ensnare with nets; but, in consequence of the danger attendant on the pursuit, their flesh fetches a high price. The cattle is small; but the horses are strong, swift-footed, and full of spirit. This I can speak to; for the very first time I mounted one, although he was advanced in years, he ran away with me for several miles. The Turks, to have a better command over them, ride them with a particular kind of bit, which is so constructed that, the moment they pull the reins, it gags them, and obliges them, even in their most rapid movements, to halt on the spot. Although they are passionately fond of their horses, and frequently purchase them at a great expence, they take, by no means, the pains, in clothing and dressing them, that we do in England; and, instead of stuffing them four or five times a day with oats, they nourish them principally with the simple aliment of chopped straw. In this respect they are certainly more reasonable than ourselves. Their coats, to

be sure, are not quite so sleek, but they escape a variety of complaints occasioned by the rich food with which they are pampered in England. Few cows are bred near Smyrna, and the milk, which the Franks chiefly use with their coffee and tea, is that of sheep or goats. The flesh of the buffalo, which is coarse and tough, supplies the place of beef, but the mutton is excellent. The sheep are also remarkable for their fat bushy tails, which sometimes weigh upwards of three pounds, and furnish a dish highly relished by the Turks.

In the inland country, there are several copper mines, which yield a remarkably pure ore; but these valuable treasures are much neglected, and the exportation of the metal is prohibited. The miners, nevertheless, contrive to smuggle it, in small quantities, on board the vessels in the harbour, during the night; and some of it has, at times, found its way into England, and, on account of its quality and cheap-

ness, created some alarm among the proprietors of our Cornish mines.

I lament exceedingly that the plague has obliged me to relinquish the plan of visiting Ephesus, where the remains of that celebrated temple* are to be seen, which was enriched by the contributions of monarchs, which was decorated by the pencil of Apelles and Parrhasius, and the chisel of Praxiteles, and which was so much the admiration of mankind, that it was reckoned, by the ancients, among the wonders of the world.

Yours, &c.

* This magnificent temple was twice built. The first was the one which was fired by Erostratus, on the night of the birth of Alexander. The second still existed in the times of Strabo and Pliny, and is frequently mentioned by those two authors. It was finally burnt by the Goths in their third naval invasion[a]. The present remains of it, I am informed, are very trifling.

[a] See Gibbon, vol. i. p. 433.

LETTER XII.

Constantinople, May 4, 1792.

After changing our opinions about a dozen times, respecting the most eligible method of conveyance to Constantinople, we at last resolved to go by land. Fully apprized of the numerous hardships and inconveniences, which must necessarily attend a long journey through a barbarous country, yet formidable as they were, we chose rather to encounter them, than to submit to the gross imposition of a Neapolitan captain* (whose vessel was the only one bound for Constantinople),

* This fellow had heard, that we were determined to go to Constantinople by water, and, as we were Englishmen, he thought he might exact from us any sum of money he chose to demand. His avarice, however, lost him the fair price of our passage.

and to run the risk of being confined several days in a filthy cabin.

Having made every requisite preparation, we left Smyrna on the 25th of April.

Notwithstanding such weighty motives as a plague, whose devastations were increasing daily, and (what I dreaded fully as much) the approaching heat*, hastened my departure, I can assure you it was taken with regret, for I received kindness and hospitality from every person to whom I was introduced, and the family with whom I was staying, heaped upon me every mark of civility and attention which urbanity could suggest, or friendship confer. But to be obliged to quit a place, in which one is just beginning to form agreeable connexions, is a mortification to which travellers must be frequently exposed, and, indeed, is one of the great

* In addition to the plague and the excessive heats, this part of Turkey is subject to frequent earthquakes. That which happened in the year 1688, overthrew a great part of the city.

drawbacks on the pleasures of a desultory life.

The society of Smyrna is on a most friendly footing, and, although composed of individuals from almost every part of Europe, that jealousy of character, which opposite views and interests so generally inspire, is not to be discovered. In commercial transactions, it may perhaps exist; but they have too much good sense to allow it to interrupt, or diminish, the pleasures of social intercourse. They have frequent entertainments at each other's houses, and there is a place of general resort for gentlemen, called the Casino, which is open every evening, and where a few hours may be always agreeably passed away. It consists of several rooms, one of which is allotted for cards, and another for politics, which is well provided with journals and newspapers from different parts of the globe. Coffee and other refreshments are, from time to time, handed round, and every thing is conducted with the greatest propriety. This establishment is supported

by subscription, and strangers, when introduced by any member, are complimented with a free admission. But to return from this digression.

As the mode of travelling in this country is rather curious in itself, and totally different from that which is adopted in Europe, a concise description of it may not prove unentertaining.

If it were possible to procure carriages, the badness and narrowness of the roads would render them useless. About this convenience there was therefore no room for choice, and we had no alternative (unless we preferred walking) but to mount some worn-out steeds, and perform our journey on horseback. Mr. Robinson, an English gentleman, and an old schoolfellow, accompanied us, and Mr. Perkins was kind enough to send with us one of his brokers, who, speaking Italian, served as our interpreter. We had also, for our security, a janizary and two other men, who, with two drivers, and three horses for our baggage, formed a respectable

cavalcade. We carried our beds and a case of provisions with us, with knives and forks and various culinary utensils; and, as we had no inclination to take shelter in any of the miserable coffee-houses on the road, which are seldom any thing more than sheds supported by four stakes, we likewise purchased a tent. These precautions may appear to you (who have been accustomed all your life to the admirable conveniences of England) extraordinary; but in this quarter of the globe they are absolutely necessary, and, by the omission of either, we should have been exposed to the risk of a violent cold, the plague, or famine.

As the same horses were destined to convey us as far as Maarlitch (horses too, which, from their appearance, had never known the flavour of oats) it was necessary to go a foot's pace the whole way: and, setting off rather late, we did not make much progress the first day.

About six o'clock in the evening we pitched our tent near a village called

Yakai, where, to our astonishment, we heard there had been no plague. Though an inconsiderable place, its situation, which is beautifully romantic, renders it worthy of notice. It stands on a gentle eminence, and on the right, at the distance of about half a mile, there is an enchanting wood, which is intersected and refreshed by several limpid rivulets, whose placid murmurs did not ill accord with the melodious notes of the nightingale, which chanted unmolested her evening song. On the banks of one of these rivulets, listening to such sweet music, I could, with pleasure, have remained, for the moon shone with all her splendour, and the weather was beautifully serene; but, as we purposed rising early in the morning, that we might the better endure the fatigues of the next day's journey, we soon returned to our tent, arranged our beds, and, without undressing ourselves, lay down about eight o'clock. We might, however as well have loitered in the wood, for we

were so tormented with fleas, and so frequently disturbed with the neighing of our own horses, and the barking of the village dogs, that, in spite of our preparations, all attempts to sleep were vain.

From prudential motives we did not admit the janizary, or any of our attendants, except Mecherdith (the broker whom Mr. Perkins had sent with us), within our tent. They, poor fellows! reposed near us, on the outside. They did not, however, neglect themselves; for, during our absence in the wood, they kindled a brisk fire, round which, on our return, we found them seated, and, whilst they were smoaking their pipes, and drinking their coffee, they chatted over the adventures of the day. The fumes of the wood, which discouraged us from enlarging their circle, they paid no regard to; and it was not till towards midnight, that they were tired of conversation, and felt themselves inclined to sleep. They then muffled up their heads, spread a substantial bear-skin under them, and lay down.

We rose about three in the morning, and, as soon as we had arranged our baggage, and refreshed ourselves with a cup of coffee, recommenced our journey: a plan which proved very convenient, and which we steadily adhered to in the sequel. It is, indeed, necessary in these hot climates to take advantage of the freshness of the morning air, for, towards mid-day, the heat of the sun is almost intolerable, and, unless accustomed to it from very early life, is not encountered without considerable danger.

We found the road over Mount Sipylus dreadfully bad, and, in many places, so rugged and steep, that it was with difficulty our horses kept their feet. This inconvenience was, however, in great measure, compensated by the elegance and romantic wildness of the views, which were continually engaging our attention. At the foot of this mountain, on a beautiful and extensive plain, watered by the river Hermus, stands Magnesia, which we passed through about mid-day. After the

capture of Constantinople by the count of Flanders, John Ducas, the Greek emperor, transferred hither the seat of his empire, and reigned here upwards of thirty years. It was also once the residence of the grand seignor*, and, although it has dwindled from its former magnificence and importance, is still a large, populous, and flourishing city. It is surrounded by a wall which is in tolerable repair, and, on an eminence to the south, are the ruins of a once formidable castle. This town is remarkable for containing an hospital for lunatics, which, I believe, is almost the only institution of the kind in the empire†.

* Amurat II. and several of his successors, resided in this city. It suffered very much when it was pillaged by Tamerlane after the famous battle of Angora.

† This dreadful malady is not indeed so frequent among the Turks as in the civilized parts of Europe, which I imagine may, in great measure, be attributed to the inertness and indifference of their minds. They also regard it with very opposite sensations, considering it as an indication of the favour of heaven. No attempts are consequently made to relieve the patients by medical assistance.

The inhabitants are industrious, and are chiefly supported by the manufacture of cotton yarn, which they carry on to a considerable extent. In ancient history, it is famous for being the spot near which Agesilaus and Tissaphernes, with their numerous armies, contended for the sovereignty of Asia *, and where Antiochus the Great, after an obstinate and bloody battle, was defeated by the Romans †. It is, indeed, surrounded with classic ground, which has been celebrated by the poet as well as the historian. But it has miserably declined from its ancient prosperity. Sardis, Pergamus, Ephesus, and many other places, once so conspicuous for wealth and population, are now reduced to villages, where science is uncultivated, and civilization unknown.

We stopped, about one o'clock, in a field to dine, and, when we were ready to remount our horses, one of the drivers,

* See Xenophon. de reg. Agisl.

† See Livy, lib. xxxvii.

who was an obstreperous fellow, refused to proceed. He said, that he had no idea of loading and unloading two or three times a day, and we were obliged to threaten him with chastisement, before we could bring him to reason. This point being settled, we resumed our journey, and rode, for several hours, through a barren uncultivated country. When we were inclined to pitch our tent, we searched in vain for an eligible situation. The sun had already sunk below the horizon; distant objects were fading fast from the view; and, at length, the animated face of nature was shrouded by the awful gloom of night. We were in a strange and barbarous country, and, from the obscurity which prevailed, uncertain of our road. We, however, pursued the track we were in, till we at last discovered a light, whose rays glimmered faintly through the trees. A sudden exhilaration of spirits glowed within us at the sight, and, keeping our eyes stedfastly fixed on this friendly beacon, we pressed forward,

with all possible diligence, till we found ourselves at the entrance of a village, called Palamont. We here expected to meet with relief, but our hopes were completely disappointed, and we applied for it in vain. Finding the inhabitants thus obstinately resolute in refusing us all accommodation or assistance, we reluctantly returned to a field, which we had noticed, about an hundred yards from the entrance of this inhospitable place. In many parts, it was an absolute marsh, and thousands of frogs, that were croaking their discordant notes, assailed our ears. The noise which they made was dreadful, and I was wishing for an army of Frenchmen to demolish these execrable musicians. On this comfortless spot, exposed to the dampness of the ground, and moreover to a piercing north wind, we were obliged to wait, above two hours, for the arrival of our baggage, from which we had imprudently separated. We at one time were beginning to imagine that our attendants had purposely taken a different road, and were

not a little pleased when their appearance released us from the apprehension of this additional misfortune.

On the 27th, in the morning, we had a fine view of Kircagatch; but on account of the plague, which was raging there with uncommon violence, we were fearful of passing through it. It is delightfully situated on the declivity of a hill, and covers a great extent of ground. A noble plain stretches out before it, and the surrounding lands are in a high state of cultivation. They furnish, indeed, the principal part of the cotton, which is exported from Smyrna. They also produce a considerable quantity of grain, and the neighbouring pasturages afford nourishment to numerous flocks of sheep. Scarcely any oxen are to be seen; and the buffalo, an animal unknown with us, and one of the most hideous productions of nature, is trained to the yoke, and supplies their place. Kircagatch, but a few years ago, was an insignificant village: the rapid increase of its trade has raised it to its present importance.

Cotton has, within the last twenty years, been assiduously cultivated, and is now become an article of such extensive commerce, that it is one of the principal sources of the riches of the country. Besides Kircagatch, it is grown in the vicinity of several places, within a few days journey of Smyrna, viz. Cassaba, Kinich, Byandira, and Subugia. The Subugia is the finest in quality, but it is produced in small quantities; and the Kircagatch and Cassaba are the kinds which are chiefly imported by our merchants. The cotton is an annual plant, raised in ploughed lands from seed, and, when ripe, is cut down like our corn. It is low and slender, like a reed, and, at the extremity, throws out a bud, which, by degrees, swells to the size of a walnut, and exhibits, when it bursts, a most beautiful appearance. The pod contains both the cotton and the seed, which obliges the proprietors, before it is brought to market, to make use of a machine to separate the one from the other, which, according to its size and powers, is worked

by the hand or by horses, and is formed on the following construction. It is in the shape of a barrel, with sides of thin iron, or wooden bars, placed almost close together, and in the centre there is a large roller, so contrived, that, as it turns, it presses the cotton against the bars, and forces it through the intervals, which are not sufficiently wide to admit the passage of the seed.

" In* every town, and almost in every " village, in Turkey, an officer, called " an aga, is appointed, who, in places of " consequence, lives like a petty prince. " He levies soldiers, maintains a consider- " able guard, administers justice in his " district, and is even invested with the " prerogative of inflicting death. At " Kircagatch, there is, at present, a very " powerful aga, called Carra Osman Og- " lau, who is so immensely rich, that he " can, if the occasion require, raise an

* This account is extracted from a letter which I received from my brother, a few months before I left England.

" army of twenty thousand men. He is,
" at the same time, very popular in the
" neighbourhood, and even at Smyrna,
" where he was formerly governor, and
" where the people passionately desire to
" have him again at their head. But in
" this country the inclinations of the
" people are never consulted; and the
" government does not seem disposed to
" confer that honour on him a second
" time. He has frequently received or-
" ders to join the army, and, to entice
" him from Kircagatch, has been offered
" the dignity of pacha, which he has
" prudently declined: for, were he once
" to put himself in the power of his ene-
" mies, his head would be immediately
" taken off, and his effects confiscated; so
" jealous is the Porte of his authority and
" influence, and so desirous of getting
" possession of his wealth. His father,
" who held the same employment, was
" entrapped by similar artifices, which has
" taught a lesson of caution to the son.
" He has consequently never obeyed the

" summons, but has hitherto contrived to
" evade it, by sacrificing considerable sums
" of money, and sending a body of troops
" in his stead. His income arises from
" the cotton grounds about Kircagatch,
" of which he is almost the sole proprie-
" tor; and he maintains such rigid dis-
" cipline and justice, within the limits of
" his jurisdiction, that a robbery is
" scarcely ever heard of. When, how-
" ever, any offence of this nature is com-
" mitted, he orders the sufferer into his
" presence, and, on being made acquainted
" with the loss he has sustained, repays it
" to him out of his treasury. He then,
" without loss of time, dispatches his
" officers after the delinquent, who, such
" is their expertness and activity, sel-
" dom allow him to escape. In conse-
" quence of these wholesome, severe, and
" munificent regulations, such a reliance
" is placed on his wisdom and justice, that
" thousands of dollars are transported from
" place to place, on the backs of mules,

" attended only by one man, almost with-
" out risk*."

We had been near thirteen hours on horseback, and were quite exhausted with the tedious length of our day's journey, when the evening set in. But we sought in vain for a comfortable spot to pitch our tent, and kept wandering on, still amused by hope, till we reached the confines of a dreary wood, which we were fearful of penetrating, and very glad to leave in the morning, having heard that it was infested with robbers.

On the 28th, a little after sun-rise, we met a Turk, who was travelling with his wife and a few attendants. The lady was seated in a kind of box, fastened to the back of her horse, and unveiled, which was rather a singular sight, as the women, even of the poorest Turks, are generally obliged to conceal their faces from the intrusive eyes of strangers. They ap-

* This aga is since dead, and his son has made his peace, for the present, with the Porte, by sending to Constantinople an immense sum of money.

peared to be very much astonished at seeing us, and the Turk, I thought, betrayed evident marks of dissatisfaction and jealousy at the notice we took of his wife. We were not, however, to be discouraged, by the sternness of his countenance, from looking at a pretty woman, nor did she express any of the resentment of her husband at the marked distinction we paid her. The admiration, indeed, to which beauty has a claim, is so universally acknowledged and bestowed, that it rarely creates, in a female breast, either misconception or surprise.

After this adventure, we proceeded till we came to a village called Geulgouck, where, for the first time, we ventured into a Turkish coffee-house, and had the good fortune to find some excellent kimac *, a preparation of cream which is much

* Yahout and pilow are also two favourite dishes in Turkey. The first is milk turned with runnet. It is very sour to the taste, but the Turks prefer it without sugar. The second is made of rice, and is a dish which is common in most eastern countries.

relished in this country, and a good deal resembles the clotted cream of Devonshire.

Though these places are dignified with the name of coffee-houses, they are, in general, nothing more than miserable huts, intended to afford a temporary refuge to the weary traveller. They have a roof composed of twigs and mud; but are left open in front, and are so scanty of provisions, that, very frequently, they afford not a mouthful of bread to allay the cravings of an empty stomach. I could not help remarking the low cunning of a Turk, whom curiosity, or probably some less laudable motive, had induced to seat himself near us. Whilst we were eating our kimac, after talking with us for a short time, and making offers of his services, thinking, I suppose, that he had either diverted our attention, or secured our confidence, he stretched out his hand over our sugar, and, in returning it, slyly took a large lump, which he slipped into his pocket. He thought he was not observed,

and I make no doubt applauded his address. At some future period he may possibly be differently rewarded.

The houses of the Turkish villages have a wretched appearance, which you may easily imagine, when I inform you, that the chief materials of which they are built, are mud and twigs. The roofs are flat, and there is never more than a ground floor, which is not always divided into separate apartments. A numerous family is frequently crowded into one small room, which is badly ventilated, and has more the appearance of a dungeon than a dwelling-house. The filth and stench of these places are inconceiveable, and prove how entirely man is the creature of habit. To us such habitations would be intolerable; and we cannot help feeling for the degradation of mankind, when we are witnesses of scenes of such squalid misery. The elegancies of life do not make us happier; many of its conveniencies may be cheerfully dispensed with; but there are comforts which we absolutely require, and

which seem to be interwoven with the very existence of rational enjoyment.

The country about Geulgouck is mountainous and barren, and the roads are infamously bad. This, however, in Turkey, is not a matter of surprise, for there are no public regulations to keep them in repair, and their state is entirely dependent on the surface and nature of the soil. Here and there, indeed, one meets with a few yards of pavement, which have been laid down at the desire of some individual, who, because he has frequented the road during his life, has, at his death, bequeathed a sum of money for that specific purpose. But, when his order has been once complied with, his heirs give themselves no further concern about it, and these patches, never being mended, in the course of a few years, are quite broken up, and, instead of being serviceable, are detrimental to the highways.

We passed this night in a field, a few hundred paces from Mendahoura, a vil-

lage which is remarkable for the number of storks, that build their nests on the tops of the houses. In other places, I had observed a nest here and there; but in this, there was scarcely a habitation without one; so that it absolutely seemed as if it formed a necessary part of the roof. The great tameness of these birds is to be principally ascribed to the veneration in which they are holden by the Turks *, who, in a

* These birds were holden in the same respect by the ancient Greeks and Romans, who attributed to them the moral virtues of temperance, conjugal fidelity, and filial and parental piety. Modern naturalists have, in some measure, confirmed this hypothesis; and it requires but little observation to be convinced, that the care and tenderness which are shewn by the parents towards their young, during their helpless state, are repaid, with additional affection, when they are labouring under the infirmities of age. They regularly migrate in the fall of the year, and are supposed to visit Egypt. Before they leave a country, they all assemble, for several days together, on some plain in the neighbourhood, as if to consult on the measures necessary for their journey. A northern wind is the signal of their departure, which is taken indifferently by night

manner, regard them as their tutelar deities. They believe that they make an annual visit to their prophet's tomb at Medina, and imagine that those houses, on which they construct their nests, will be exempted, for the year, from the ravages of the plague and fire. They consequently never allow any of them to be destroyed; but, on the contrary, encourage their propagation with zealous devotion. As we were walking about the village, we noticed, round one of these nests, an assemblage of between twenty and thirty hawks, which were watching a stork very narrowly. We did not stop to discover their motive; but, as she was covering her nest, we conjectured that she was hatching her eggs, and that these voracious animals were

or day, when they mount the air with surprising velocity, and, in a few seconds, totally disappear. On their return, in the spring, they uniformly repair to their old abodes, giving evident marks of joy on their arrival, and, if their nest has been destroyed, they immediately set about rebuilding it.—See Buffon's interesting account of this bird, vol. xxii. p. 253. 4to. edit.

waiting for an opportunity of carrying off the young ones.

On the morning of the 29th, we passed through a rich and beautiful valley, which terminated in a small wood, where, like Arcadian shepherds, we made an excellent repast, under the shade of one of the largest trees. My mind was quite alive to the scenery which surrounded us, and I dwelt on its graces with peculiar delight. Although we, who have been bred up in the midst of peopled towns, and accustomed, from our infancy, to the wants and conveniencies of polished society, have many artificial perceptions, yet I do not require the vivid colouring of imagination, or the studied embellishments of poetry, to conceive the charms of pastoral life. What, indeed, can be more enviable than that state of innocence and independence which once prevailed, before the heart was corroded by too intimate an acquaintance with the vices and refinements of the world; when the shepherd's only thought was how to pass the day contentedly; when he

wandered about with his flocks and herds, enjoying the pure gratifications of his own feelings, and securing, through life, that almost certain reward of sobriety and virtue, a sound constitution, and a peaceful mind! Leaving this wood, we had not proceeded far before we met the Constantinople courier who was on his road to Smyrna, and who, to perform this journey, generally requires five days. The post, in Turkey, is not, as with us, under the control and patronage of the government, but is an establishment agreed on, and regulated, by the different foreign or native merchants and traders, residing in the large towns, who consult their own advantage, and, according to the extent of their concerns, contribute their quota of the expence. When a courier is the bearer of letters of importance, and arrives earlier than usual, in addition to his regular stipend, he is generally presented with a sum of money, as a compensation for his diligence and exertion. One poor fellow, a few years back, in the month of July,

stimulated by the hopes of the reward, reached Smyrna in three days and a half. On his arrival, for such an extraordinary effort, he received a present of forty dollars, and died a few hours after, of fatigue. Scarcely was the courier out of sight, when we fell in with some attendants belonging to a pacha, who was encamped before a village at a small distance off, and was threatening an immediate commencement of hostilities, unless its inhabitants consented to supply him, without delay, with a few purses of money*. But they had the spirit, peremptorily to refuse a compliance with such an unjustifiable demand, and nobly returned him for answer, that they were resolved to defend their property with their lives. If my good wishes could bring them success, it should most certainly be insured to them; for I cannot help cursing that dastardly avarice which extorts from the needy,

* A purse is 100 sequins. A sequin is five dollars, and a dollar is two shillings sterling.

and persecutes the weak, from a conviction, that strength must, at last, overpower the generous, but fruitless, efforts of inadequate resistance. How naturally, and how ardently, one desires to oppose the course of oppression, and to see the triumph of victory reward the exertions of justice. But, unfortunately, desires cannot provide support, and all that a private man can do, is to express his resentment at those acts which he is unable to chastise.

This part of the country is extremely well wooded, and affords a retreat to an abundance of game, which, from the scantiness of population, is not much molested by the fowler's or gunner's skill.

A few miles before we reached Maarlitch, we traversed a large plain, on which we perceived, at a distance, nine columns. On inquiry, we found that they had been erected at the expence of an individual, and were intended to support an aqueduct, which was to convey water to the city. Unfortunately, he died before the work was completed, and its present decayed state is

suffered to exhibit a shameful memorial of the lack of liberality and public spirit. We were, however, desirous of approaching and examining them more minutely. Thus stimulated by our curiosity, we paid very little attention to our horses, which were dreadfully jaded; but, spurring them over ploughed fields and ditches, at length arrived at the foot of one of them. It was, according to our calculation, about sixty feet high, and was solidly built of flint, tile, and stone, with a winding staircase within, which conducted to the top, whence there was an extensive prospect.

About mid-day we alighted at Maarlitch, nearly as much fatigued as our horses, and very well pleased at having accomplished the first division of our journey.

In the course of this journey, my eyes and thoughts were frequently wandering towards the shores of Troy, and I could not help lamenting, that I had not an opportunity of visiting a spot, which has produced so many gods and heroes; where

mount Ida still rears its lofty head; where the Simois and Scamander still continue to flow; and where every surrounding object has been described, and immortalized, by the transcendent genius of Homer.

I shall write you again to-morrow, and give you an account of the remainder of this journey.

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XIII.

Constantinople, May 5, 1792.

MAARLITCH stands on the banks of the Mikalitza, which, at the distance of a few miles, falls into the sea of Marmara. This river is the ancient Rhyndacus, so celebrated for the signal victory which Lucullus gained over Mithridates, and which is so elegantly recorded by the pen of Plutarch*. It has also been the scene of many a bloody contest, during the history of the rising empire of the Turks. The town is of considerable extent, and we found the bazar well supplied with a variety of merchandize; but what surprised me most, was the astonishing number of blacksmiths, whose shops form one

* See Plutarch, Lucul. vit.

of the principal streets, and called to my recollection Virgil's description of the residence of Vulcan *.

The inhabitants of this place are very much distressed for water, which they are obliged to fetch from a great distance, there being no springs in the town, and the river, which flows near it, is so muddy that it is unfit for use.

Having previously satisfied ourselves concerning the absence of the plague, we ventured into a house, and employed a part of our time in allaying our hunger, and recruiting our strength, with an excellent bowl of kimac.

According to agreement, we quitted our horses here, and without any regret, for they were quite overcome with their exertions. It was not, however, without difficulty that we procured others, and several hours elapsed, before we could come to an arrangement about the price.

* The shoe of the Turkish horses is unlike that worn by ours. It is a round broad rim of iron, without any break in it.

I had long been anticipating the pleasure of vaulting on a fresh and vigorous steed; but expectation frequently leads to disappointment; and when I first saw the animal which was allotted to me, I verily concluded, that I should have a considerable portion of the remainder of my journey to perform on foot. It was so supremely ugly, that even the Rosinante of Don Quixote, placed by his side, might have been commended for his beauty and grace. My beast, moreover, possessed a quality in which the courser of that renowned knight was fortunately deficient; for at times, particularly in the morning, he was so offensive to the nose, that no body would ride near him. This, I believe, was occasioned by a disorder with which several of our horses were afflicted, and which, I imagine, is peculiar to this country; at least, I never observed it any where else. In many parts of their bodies the blood, in narrow streaks, burst through the skin, and these wounds used to heal and break out afresh, or in other parts, in

the course of twenty-four hours. They disfigured the animal a good deal, but did not seem to occasion either pain or inconvenience.

Shortly after leaving Maarlitch, a dilapidated castle presented itself, which stands on an eminence, and commands the town, and which, when in repair, must have been of considerable strength. A little farther on, we observed a solid stone building, which we rode up to, and alighted from our horses to examine. It consisted of a large vault, the architecture of which displayed some rude taste: and a wide stone chimney was erected at each end, and carried through the roof. It appeared too solid and expensive a fabric for a caravansary, but for what other purpose it could have been designed I am at a loss to determine.

This day was memorable for the discontinuation of the cold northerly wind, which had persecuted us, without intermission, ever since our departure from Smyrna. Contrasted with the scorching

heat of the sun, it had produced dreadful effects on our faces, having blistered them terribly, and swelled our noses to an immoderate size. But we suffered most from it at night; for, in spite of all our precautions, it penetrated our tent, and made us shiver, for hours, after we were in bed.

The janizary and our other attendants used regularly, every morning, to discharge their fire-arms; and when they were chilled by the keenness of the air, in order to warm themselves, by assisting the circulation of their blood, they would shout for several minutes together. This method of expelling the cold, provoked our laughter at first; but we afterwards practised it, and found it of some service.

We had a very curious fellow of our party, who was son to one of the mule-drivers. He was a young man of eighteen, and, notwithstanding his time of life, and the activity and exertion which his situation seemed to require, he was almost perpetually asleep. I never shall forget

the ludicrous figure which he made one morning at breakfast, when his father giving him an egg, he received it between sleeping and waking, and immediately crammed it into his mouth, without taking off the shell. It kept him employed nearly a quarter of an hour, before he could swallow it, which was no sooner accomplished, than, as if completely exhausted with the exertions, he returned to a state of the most inanimate lethargy.

The favourable alteration in the weather enabled us to examine, and to enjoy, the beauties of the country we passed through. After being on horseback for a few hours we arrived at a lake on whose banks we rode for several miles. It was adorned with numberless islands, which were clothed with wood, and enamelled with the brightest verdure; and, for several miles round, was exhibited one of the most elegant natural gardens I ever beheld. On every side some pleasing or striking object presented itself, and, towards the north, mount Olympus towered to the skies, and

majestically terminated the view. As the road approaches Brusa, it borders on a luxuriant plain, at the nearest extremity of which, there is a large and thick coppice, that furnishes a retreat to thousands of nightingales, which, as if to regale the wearied traveller, chant their melodious notes the whole day long.

We went a few miles out of our way to see the baths of Chechirgui. They were built by the Genoese, when this part of the country was in their possession, and are esteemed the most magnificent in the Turkish dominions*. The principal one consists of a spacious hall, with a ceiling formed into three domes, with glass lanterns at top, through which the light is admitted, and, in the centre, an elegant marble fountain is erected, which, through several pipes, pours into a large bason its

* Magnificent as they are, they vanish into nothingness, compared with those of Caracalla and Diocletian, of which Seneca, whilst he is railing at the vices and luxury of Rome, gives such a glowing description.—See Sen. epist. lxxxvi.

pellucid and refreshing waters. It is entirely paved with marble, and along the walls, on each side, there is a range of seats covered with mattresses, where we found some smoaking, or drinking coffee and sherbet, and others reposing themselves, after bathing. To the right of this hall, are two passages, one of which leads to the hot, and the other to the cold, bath. Before we arrived at the hot bath, we passed through several rooms of atmospheres, progressively warmer, which obviate the inconvenience of a too sudden change of air. The pavement is heated by subterraneous flews, but the temperature of the water, which is very hot, is not artificial. It is conducted through the walls into the baths, by several leaden pipes, and, from the copperas which adheres to the places whence it issues, is supposed to pass through extensives mines of vitriol. The baths and apartments for the women, are on the opposite side of the hall.

These baths are held in high repute,

and their fame attracts invalids from the remotest parts of the empire. In summer time, they are kept open from four in the morning till eight at night, and the usual price is from two to four aspars, or about one penny sterling. The attendants are numerous, and one of them waits on every bather, who has a great many ceremonies to go through. In the course of the operation, every joint of his body is cracked, even the vertebræ of the back, which is performed with wonderful dexterity. They pressed me very much to try the experiment; but I felt no inclination to be so roughly handled. Those, however, who are accustomed to it, consider it as a great luxury, and always put on their clothes with reluctance. The women are excessively fond of going to the baths, where they meet old friends, and form new acquaintance; and where they can always pass their time more pleasantly, and with less restraint, than at home. They frequently remain there for several hours,

chatting and embroidering, and refreshing themselves with sherbet and coffee. Ladies of distinction are conveyed thither in the carriages of the country, which are clumsy vehicles, shut up on every side with wooden blinds, that admit a circulation of air without discovering to the inquisitive eyes of passengers the charms of those within.

Besides these baths, the only object that merits attention at Chechirgui, is the principal mosch, which is a stately building.

We found the people of this place uncommonly impertinent and curious. The moment we alighted from our horses, a number of them surrounded us, and, without asking our permission, one took a cutlass, another a pistol, a third got hold of a saddle, and did not quit them till they had minutely examined every part. This kind of inquisitiveness which proceeds from ignorance, is, of all others, the most teasing. No common answer will satisfy it, but it still goes on, wondering and

and questioning, till it is at last completely puzzled by its own conclusions.

Whilst we were here, we had an opportunity of putting the delicacy of our janizary to the test. Out of our stock of provisions, we had still remaining an excellent piece of beef, which, as we were so near Brusa, we thought we might venture to make a present of to this fellow. But when we offered it to him, to our great surprise, he refused it, adding, that the day before he had seen it on a plate with some ham. Although I knew that the Koran was as severe as the Jewish law, respecting its inhibitions against touching any of the *unclean animals*, I had no notion of meeting, in a hungry janizary, with such an instance of scrupulous pertinacity *. I fancy, however, that he would have been less conscientious, had he not been within hearing of his country-

* The Persian Mahometans eat pork, drink wine, and ornament their houses with pictures. The Turks, however, stigmatize them with the name of schismatics.

men, among whom he always assumed an air of superiority. When applause or respect can be insured by any trifling self-denial, we seldom hesitate to comply. It is a sacrifice of moment, that creates the feelings of repugnance, and weakens the barriers of duty.

About two o'clock we arrived at Brusa, which is one of the largest and most ancient cities of Asia. Formerly it was the capital of the flourishing kingdom of Bithynia, where the great but unfortunate Hannibal terminated his existence, and where the Romans maintained a long and doubtful warfare with the artful Prusias. It has since been the seat of the Ottoman empire *, and the mausoleums of several

* Brusa was, for a long time, the capital of the Turks. It was besieged, and reduced, by famine, after a tedious blockade, by Orchan, in the year of the Hegira 726 (which was the year 1325 of the Christian era), during the reign of his father Othman I. who was the founder of the Ottoman empire.

It was the birth-place of Asclepiades, the celebrated physician.

sultans (among which is that of Orchan) are still to be seen. It stands at the foot of Olympus, a mountain of an immense height, which derives its name from the celebrated Olympus in Thessaly, which was feigned by the ancients to be the residence of their gods. At all seasons of the year, its summit is covered with snow; whilst the lower hills are planted with fir, beech, aspin, yolk-elm, plane, and chesnut-trees, and clothed with the brightest verdure. It so abounds with springs, that no city in Turkey is so well supplied with water, almost every house having a fountain, which the Turks reckon among their chief luxuries. These springs swell into the most delightful crystal streams, as they fall into the valley, and abound with trout and other excellent fish; and the surrounding country is in a high state of cultivation, and covered with vineyards, fruit trees, and luxuriant woods. On the southern side of the city, lies a fertile and extensive plain, planted with mulberry-trees for the nourishment of the silk-worms, which pros-

per here exceedingly, and produce remarkably fine silk. They are not, however, bred on the trees; but are kept within doors, where their food is brought to them.

Brusa, thus situated, presents a singular, but beautiful and romantic, landscape. As we approached it, we saw it in various points of view, and the scenery, through all its changes, was either elegant or wild, and always interesting. In some parts, many of the houses are built a considerable way up the mountain, whilst others stand more securely in the valley below: in other parts, the minarets add to the splendour, and the plane-trees to the softness, of the picture. A wall, which is in a ruinous state, surrounds the city, within which none but musslumans are permitted to dwell; but the suburbs, which are far more extensive, and infinitely better built and paved, are inhabited by Greeks, Jews, and Armenians. Comprising both, the population is computed to amount to one hundred and thirty thousand souls. They

carry on a considerable trade * in silk, which is exported in the raw state to every part of Europe, and their manufactures in this article, in carpets, in gold, and in velvet brocade, are justly esteemed. Although they have not yet been able, by the assistance of such perfect machinery, to simplify and reduce the exertions of labour with the same success as we, yet the fabric of them is very ingenious, and much taste is displayed in the variety and arrangement of the patterns.

It was in the reign of the emperor Justinian that the silk-worm was first introduced into Europe. The luxury of the Romans had long since rendered the manufacture an indispensable article of dress, and it was transported, annually, in caravans, from China to the coast of Syria, by a tedious, expensive, and circuitous, route. The Persian merchants,

* The caravans from Constantinople and Aleppo to Ispahan pass through Brusa, whence one for Persia sets out every two months.

who frequented the fairs of Armenia and Nisibis, delivered it into the hands of the Romans, and reaped considerable benefits from the monopoly of this important and valuable branch of commerce. Two Persian monks, who had resided in China for a length of time, and had observed with attention the management of this remarkable insect, conceived the project of conveying some of the eggs to Constantinople, and, receiving encouragement from the emperor, they evaded the jealous vigilance of the Chinese, by concealing them in the hollow of a cane. Under their direction, on their return, the eggs were hatched, the worms fed, and the race propagated*. Such was the origin of a production, which is now cultivated with success, not only in the Turkish empire, but in many parts of Europe, where it forms one of the principal sources

* See Gibbon's elegant and interesting account of this event (vol. vii. p. 98), from which the above is abridged.

of revenue to the state, and employment to the people.

The moschs are numerous, and several of them have large domes, covered with lead, and are, in every respect, magnificent structures. The seraglio*, which was erected by Mahomet IV. is an extensive edifice, standing on an eminence. It commands a most enchanting prospect, and is inaccessible on every side, but that which leads to the city. The royal colleges, where students are nourished, and instructed in Arabic learning, free of expence, are well endowed, and in high repute. The caravansaries are both handsome and convenient, and the bazar, which occupies a large space of ground, is furnished with all the productions of the Levant, and with many rich and costly articles from the different countries of Europe. The bazars in the East, like Bond-street in London, are the principal lounge of all idle people; and some of the

* There is another seraglio, called the *old*, which was built by Amurat I.

shops, though in a different style, display nearly as much splendour and taste. Whilst we were walking about in this grand repository of merchandize and wealth, we met the pacha on foot. He was attended by several of his guards, and every body made way for him, as he approached, with the greatest obsequiousness, which he returned with looks of sullen pride and contempt. He, the janizary aga, and the cadi, divide the government of the place.

A Jew, who accosted us shortly after our arrival, and who had politely conducted us about the city, towards the evening, took us to a place where pipes and coffee are provided, and which, on account of its agreeable situation, is much resorted to, during the summer months. To get there, we were obliged to mount a steep ascent, when we were surprised at finding a large plat of ground, neatly laid with turf, and planted with trees. A current of water, which derives its source from an overhanging mountain, passes through it, and, from being confined between two

large planks, flows with great impetuosity. Under the shade of these trees, and on the banks of this current, the Turks repose on their carpets, and, with the alternate amusement of a pipe, a cup of coffee, and a nap, contrive to loiter away the day. Of these three indolent occupations, which consume so great a portion of their time, the pipe seems to afford the greatest enjoyment, and their genius has been exerted in the refinement of this luxury. The pipe in the highest estimation has a tube, four or five feet long, one end of which is put into a glass globe, half full of water, and is so contrived, that, as the breath is drawn, the smoke rushes through the water, and is consequently received cool into the mouth. When the water begins to lose its freshness, it is changed, which operation is performed several times, before the tobacco is exhausted.

During the whole of our journey, we had been complaining of the great scarcity of provisions, making sometimes fruitless inquiries, even after bread: and, notwith-

standing the population of Brusa, no flesh was to be procured. On asking the reason, of what appeared on the first view so very incomprehensible, I was informed, that, at this season of the year, between the rising and the setting of the sun, scarcely any eatable is ever to be obtained, on account of the ramazan, which is the Turkish lent, and which, although a religious, I will venture to add, is a ridiculous institution. It lasts for four weeks, during which time the order of Nature is completely reversed, and the followers of Mahomet, whilst the day continues, are strictly forbidden to take any kind of sustenance. However violent may be the cravings of an empty stomach, till the sun has sunk below the horizon, they must be endured. Sleep is permitted; but the pipe is a luxury, in which it is unlawful to indulge, and even the use of water is regarded as a criminal excess. These severe and absurd injunctions prove fatal to a number of people, especially to those who are advanced in years. They are,

however, relaxed in favour of the sick and travellers, which is a convenient concession for persons who are not over conscientious. But if the law be strictly complied with, those, who, from illness or other reasons, have omitted to fast during the regular period, are not suffered to escape; but are bound to keep an exact account of the days of indulgence, and to submit to the penalty as soon as these obstacles are removed.

The ramazan is the ninth month of the Turkish year, and was ordained by Mahomet himself, who declared it was at that period he received the Koran from heaven. The length of their month being entirely regulated by the moon, this fast consequently falls at different seasons. When it happens in the summer, those, who observe it rigidly, suffer dreadfully from thirst, and wait, with the greatest impatience, for the voice of the muezzins, or criers, who announce, from the minarets, the hour at which it is lawful to take food. Many ascend the highest hills to watch the set-

ting sun, and acclamations of joy attend its departure. As the evening closes in, all kinds of preparations are going forward, to make amends for the abstinence and lingering weariness of the day, and the night is passed in festive jollity, or drunken riot and sensual debauch. This is a season of licence, and, under the certain shadow of darkness, every kind of intemperance is practised with impunity. The hans in the large towns exhibit a curious scene. They are well lighted up, and are crowded with people of all descriptions, who seem to have met with a determination to enjoy themselves. The saturnine disposition of the Turks relaxes into cheerfulness, and hilarity circulates with every testimony of freedom and good-will.

The caravansaries, which are erected in all the large towns, and on the principal roads of the empire, are spacious buildings, and generally of a quadrangular form. They have a bench, fixed to the wall on every side, raised a few feet from the ground, and about six feet in width, on

which the travellers spread their mattresses; and the area, in the middle, is occupied by the camels, horses, and mules. Although the caravansaries in this city are on a grand scale, being at this season much occupied, we were so fearful of the plague, that we preferred passing the night in a warehouse; but we were miserably off, for the fleas, with which it swarmed, so tormented us, that we could get no sleep. The people of the country are not, I fancy, so much exposed to their attacks, for, instead of taking any pains to get rid of them, they seem to encourage their propagation, by covering their floors with mats, which afford them a secure and convenient shelter.

Shortly after we had taken up our quarters in the warehouse, a man, whom curiosity had induced to pay us a visit, entered, and, being of an inquisitive disposition, soon began to chat with the familiarity of an old acquaintance. We were desirous of amusing him as much as we could, and, after having shewn him a

variety of things, Mecherdith, recollecting that I had a bottle of phosphorous, begged I would light a match with it, merely to see what degree of surprise it would occasion. I accordingly dipped one into the bottle, and, on pulling it out, when he first perceived the flame, he had such an aspect of astonishment and fear, that I really believe he suspected the operation was performed by some magical process. To obtain fire from a place in which he had no conception that the element could be confined, confounded his reason, and puzzled his imagination. Having fixed his eyes upon us for about a minute in silent wonder, he expressed a wish to examine the match, which I presented to him. Eager to unravel the mystery, after viewing it in various positions, he at last applied it to his nose; but was so startled at the effect which the brimstone produced, that he hastily threw it down, appeared tacitly to condemn his thirst after knowledge, and took the first opportunity of stealing out of the room.

On the 2d of May we proceeded on our journey, and had not travelled many miles, when we were gratified with the sight of one of the most enchanting and finished landscapes, I ever beheld. It consisted of a plain, planted with chesnut, cherry, and mulberry trees, not too confined to destroy its effect, or too extensive for its beauties to be lost. The plantations were arranged with unstudied taste, and the interstices were filled up with parterres of vines, whose prolific branches were trained round the trees. On three sides the view was terminated by lofty mountains, which were cultivated to their very summits, and in many parts adorned with serpentine hedges, composed of jessamy, eglantine, and honey-suckle, which grew in wild luxuriance, and perfumed the air. The plain was intersected by a meandering rivulet, that, enriching and adorning in its course, gently poured its tribute into the sea, by which the fourth side was bounded. The pencil of Claude, wonderful as it is, would have shrunk from all competition

before the colouring that was here displayed, and I wish that you, who are a lover of cultivated nature, had been with me to participate my feelings, whilst I was dwelling on this unrivalled picture.

In the course of the day, we passed an arm of the sea, on the borders of which a few workmen were building a ship of war for the grand seignor. How long it had been on the stocks, I cannot pretend to say; but it was not in a very advanced state, and, from the slovenly manner in which it was put together, I thought there was some chance of its falling to pieces, before it was completed. Whilst observing it, I could not help reflecting, and with no small degree of pride and satisfaction, on the navy and dock-yards of Great Britain, those grand bulwarks of our strength! How they would surprise the narrow conceptions of these ignorant and clumsy mechanics!

We had been ten hours (a tedious length of time) on horseback, when we stopped

to dine under the shade of a tree, on the banks of a rapid brook, exhibiting no incorrect copy of the simple contrivances of pastoral life.

After dinner we travelled for four hours, and, desirous of finishing our journey, we made one effort more, and, setting off at ten o'clock at night, reached Yalova by five in the morning, which, although now but an insignificant village, was once celebrated for its splendour and extent, and for being the imperial residence of Diocletian *.

It is scarcely possible to imagine the wretched state of the road which we traversed for the last twelve or fourteen miles. It was extremely narrow, and rugged beyond description; and, in many parts, so thickly overshaded with trees, that it resembled all the horrours of enchantment. The poor horses, which carried our baggage, had many severe falls,

* See Gibbon, vol. iii. p. 7.

and those we rode hardly made a step without stumbling. Like true Englishmen, we scorned all admonition, and, flattering ourselves every moment that the road would mend, we preferred running the risk of breaking our necks to the trouble of dismounting. Had not, however, the obscurity of the night concealed our danger, we should perhaps have been less imprudent. Our conductors, astonished at the dreadful ruggedness of the path, began to suspect that they had missed their way; and, whilst they were communicating their doubts to each other, a man was fortunately discovered who, being better acquainted with the geography of the country, soon relieved them from their dilemma.

We only waited at Yalova time enough to engage a vessel, and make the necessary preparations for our embarkation. About seven o'clock we went on board, and, after a pleasant sail of eight hours on the sea of Marmara, (the ancient Propontis) we

came in sight of that renowned capital, which presents one of the most glorious and magnificent scenes in the world, and for a description of which I shall refer you to the elegant Gibbon *.

The sea of Marmara has always been celebrated for its exquisite fish, which is caught in abundance at stated seasons, and the shores, both of Thrace and Bithynia, by which it is encircled, exhibit a luxuriant prospect of vineyards, and gardens, and woods, and meadows, and corn-fields, which yield a regular and productive harvest.

Poor Mecherdith, who had never been at sea before, was so agitated with fear, and so enervated with illness, that when we first caught the sight of a minaret, for which we had been long eagerly watching, and told him, that we had at last discovered Constantinople, he languidly raised his head, and, without ever looking round,

* See Gibbon's Rom. Emp. vol. i.

dropped it again, nor could all our persuasion induce him to move a second time, till he got up to jump on shore.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIV.

Constantinople, May 9, 1792.

THE inside of Constantinople by no means corresponds with the splendid scene which it presents as you approach it. The streets are narrow and badly paved, and the houses are, in general, of wood, and rudely built. Most of them are two stories high, and have balconies and terraces, where the Turks, in fine weather, smoke their pipes, and drink their coffee. The city is surrounded with a wall, flanked with towers, which is in pretty good repair, but quite unfurnished with artillery. Comprehending the suburbs of Pera and Galata, it is of an immense extent, and is computed to contain upwards of six hundred thousand souls. Being the capital of a rich and

populous empire, like all other great cities, it is the seat of profligacy and dissipation, and pre-eminently distinguished for luxury and vice.

When we reflect on the sudden, various, and total revolutions, which this renowned metropolis has undergone; when we recollect, that it was once the receptacle of an undistinguished colony of Greeks; that it was afterwards created by Constantine the capital of the world, and ordained to rear its lofty head above the majestic walls of Rome; and that, finally, after arduous and repeated struggles, it was destined to yield to the arms of a barbarian conqueror, and to remain, for so many centuries, in the possession of a race of infidels; we have a most awful and striking lesson, on the insignificance of human grandeur, the instability of fortune, and the folly of reposing, with too much confidence, on the permanency of present strength.

Whilst under the dominion of Constantine and his successors, it had been adorned with some of the choicest pro-

ductions of art, and, in point of magnificence, even emulated Rome. The wealth, the labour, the genius, of the empire, was employed in the embellishment of the new capital, and what, in consequence of the degeneracy of skill and of taste, these were unable to furnish, was supplied from the scattered remains of a more fortunate and enlightened era. The immortal productions of the Grecian chisel were removed from their ancient abodes, and transported, at an enormous expence, from the most remote provinces, to this favoured spot. Every region was ransacked to contribute to its splendour. Europe, Asia, and Africa were the extensive scene of plunder, and were compelled to deliver up the treasures of art, and even the objects of adoration*. At the time when it was taken, in the fifteenth century, by Mahomet II. many of these noble

* Buonaparte has been acting on the same plan; and every country, where his power has been felt, has been sacrificed to his personal vanity.

monuments of human ingenuity and perseverance still existed; but it was the object and the labour of its new master to mutilate or destroy every vestige, which could convey any idea of the advancement of learning and the fine arts. It was not, however, one reign which could accomplish this unworthy, this sacrilegious design, and, even to this day, there are some few remains of antiquity to be seen, which are worthy of exciting admiration, and which kindle emotions of pious regret for what has been lost, and can never be restored.

Any monument which, through a long succession of ages, has been an object of curiosity or veneration, is always viewed, by a person of letters, with a mixture of pleasurable sensations, arising from a combination of circumstances which memory arranges in his mind. It is either emblematical of popular superstition, or it records, or corroborates, or explains, some historical fact, or it exhibits a specimen of that sublime genius which was so conspi-

cuous a feature in the works of the ancients.

The first place we were conducted to, was the Hippodrome, where horse races and other equestrian and athletic amusements were formerly exhibited, and engaged in, by the contending parties, with the most furious animosity. The Turks have, indeed, reserved it for similar purposes, and are very dexterous in the management of their horses, which are surprisingly fleet. Here it is they also frequently practice throwing the jirid, which is one of their favourite diversions, and at which they are astonishingly expert. These entertainments bear a near resemblance to the tournaments which were so much in vogue in the age of chivalry, and the Turks enter completely into the spirit of them. They put their horses on the full gallop; throw their jirids in the air and catch them with the greatest address; and pursue each other with the most determined cagerness. They wheel about, retreat, and attack, and go through the

various evolutions of horsemanship with wonderful rapidity. When they dart at each other, they generally aim at the back, and the principal skill consists in throwing themselves forward on their horses, and avoiding the meditated blow*. But the

* I have extracted the following note from prince Cantemir's History of the Othman empire. See p. 90. Annotation 41.

" The jirid is a sort of light missive javelin much used by the Turks. They, who are expert in the use of it, carry three of these javelins in a case hung from the right side of their horse, with which they hit the mark with an exactness scarce to be matched by the most skilful gunners. Of this I shall give an instance, which, had I not been an eye-witness, I should hardly have believed. In the last year of the former war, before the forces departed from Zenta, some of the emperor's chamberlains exercised this sport before him on a plain near Philippolis. The javelins they used were not pointed, but blunt at the end. One Mehemed Aga, a Circassian, and master of the stables (a place of great dignity with the Turks), was among them. One of the company hit him unawares upon the back with a jirid sent with great force. Mehemed, ashamed, and perhaps enraged with the smart, gave the reins to his horse, of the Egyptian breed, and furiously pursued the flying enemy, who, sensible that if he rid directly on he

Hippodrome, although it thus frequently exhibits an animated scene, is stripped of all that magnificence and splendour with which the Greek emperors adorned it, and is now little more than a large irregular square, inclosed with irregular buildings. Near its centre there is an obelisk of porphyry, which is in a perfect state, and, although measuring upwards of fifty feet in height, is of one stone. It was transported from Thebes in Egypt, and the sides of it are covered with hieroglyphics, the mysterious symbols of that once celebrated country. It rests on four brazen balls, supported by a well-proportioned pedestal, on which there are various clumsy bas-reliefs, and inscriptions, both in Greek and Latin*, mentioning,

could not escape his pursuer, turned his horse to the right, when Mehemed with a javelin sent after him, blunt as it was, pierced the jaws of his horse, and threw both horse and rider to the ground. I saw the same man, in ostentation of his strength, strike an ordinary and pointless jirid through the outer gate of a monastery in Moldavia, made of planks three inches thick."

* These inscriptions are now scarcely legible.

that it was restored by Theodosius to its present condition.

At a small distance from this obelisk, there is a very lofty column, which, from its mutilated appearance, bears the marks of remote antiquity. It is composed of several blocks of marble, and has suffered very seriously from the rough treatment it received when it was pillaged of the plates of gilded bronze with which it was formerly covered. In the time of the Greek emperors, it was the farthest goal of the Hippodrome, and the inscription on the base speaks of the workmanship of it in terms of high panegyric.

The famous brazen triple serpent of which Mahomet II. broke one of the heads*, when he triumphantly entered the city, still continues to attract strangers to the Hippodrome, and to remind them of the foolish arrogance of that haughty despot. Exasperated at the long and vigorous defence that had been made, he

* The other two heads have since disappeared.

regarded this inoffensive serpent as a talisman, which had inspired resistance to his arms, and, for such a length of time, rendered his efforts ineffectual. When it was in his power, he accordingly took his impotent revenge. This remarkable pillar is very ancient, and is said to have been brought from Delphi, where it served to support the celebrated tripod of gold, formed out of a part of the immense treasures found in the camp of Mardonius, and which the Greeks, after the battle of Platæa, consecrated to Apollo*.

The moschs, in general, are noble structures, and, although incorrect in point of architecture, like the Gothic cathedrals with us, are striking on account of their solidity and dimensions. They produce a grand effect, standing in spacious courts, which are ornamented with trees and fountains, and the accesses to them are convenient and good. They have each several domes, and from one to six or

* See Herodotus, lib. ix. c. 80.

seven minarets, which are high slender towers with two or three outside galleries, whence the muezzins, turning with solemnity to the four quarters of the globe, in an audible voice, proclaim the hours of prayer, and admonish the people to assemble. Great attention is paid to their preservation and cleanliness. They are kept in excellent repair, and many of them are maintained at an enormous expence. Of these moschs, which are extremely numerous*, seven, by way of pre-eminence, are distinguished by the title of royal moschs; and of these again, St. Sophia is, in every respect, the most magnificent and remarkable. I shall, therefore, endeavour to give you a description of it.

This celebrated temple stands on the ruins of a church of the same name, which was burnt during the memorable sedition of the *Nika*, and employed, for the space of nearly six years, the hands of

* There are said to be upwards of two thousand moschs at Constantinople.

ten thousand workmen. It was erected by Justinian, and dedicated by him to the service of the true God; and, although defaced in many parts, and divested of those costly ornaments which once adorned it, is still a superb edifice. When Mahomet II. entered the city, he was so struck with the majesty of its appearance, that he allowed it to escape the ravages of his exterminating hand, and converted it into a place of religious worship for his followers. It is built in the form of a Greek cross, and the entrance is through a double portico, which, by means of several folding doors of bronze covered with bas-reliefs, communicates with the body of the church. The inside consists of an immense ile, three sides of which are encompassed with a gallery, supported by sixty seven variegated marble pillars. The principal dome, which measures one hundred and thirteen feet in diameter, is constructed on arches which repose on four colossal columns, and is much admired for its gentle concavity, and the justness

of its proportions. The roof is worked in mosaic, the walls are entirely encrusted with marble, and the pavement and stairs, which are covered with carpets, are of the same expensive material. We were only permitted to take a view of this church from a part of the gallery, through a lattice. Several Turks were at prayers, although no person was officiating; some quite motionless, whilst others entertained us with a variety of violent and extravagant gesticulations. Near the middle of the ile, a pulpit is erected for the mufti, and, beyond it, stands a kind of pew with a gilded lattice, which is appropriated to the grand seignor, when he honours this mosch with his presence. The nich, in which the Koran is deposited, always faces the holy city of Mecca, towards which the mussulmans turn, whenever they repeat their prayers. The Turks ornament the walls of their moschs with moral distichs of Arabian poetry and passages from the Koran, which are written in letters of gold; but, considering an at-

tempt to represent the human form as a criminal presumption, they neither admit statues nor paintings. Women are also excluded from the moschs, from a fear of their engrossing too much of the attention of the men, which is so frequently the case at our own churches, where a pair of fine eyes is apt to relax the fervour of devotion, and to render us totally forgetful of the moral lessons of the preacher. The man who conducted us through the gallery (and who had made us pay pretty handsomely for his trouble*), desired us to remark two stone gates, one of which, he said, led to paradise, the other to the infernal regions. He also, with a sarcastic smile, pointed out a cross, which is represented in mosaic on one of the walls, and is a remnant of the Greek ornaments. There are, indeed, several re-

* The Turks are rather scrupulous about shewing this mosch to strangers, or perhaps they only pretend to be so, because this is the one strangers are most anxious to see. We were obliged to pay fifteen dollars to gain admission.

mains of mosaic pictures to be seen in different parts; but the Turks, taking no pains to preserve them, they are falling fast to decay. They are made of a curious composition of a vitrified nature, and the colours, which are of numerous shades, retain their original lustre*.

Such are the principal relicks of the former magnificence of Constantinople, once renowned for laws and arms, once the abode of the sciences and arts, once unrivalled in riches, in elegance, and splendour, the envy of surrounding nations, and the astonishment of an admiring world.

Yours, &c.

* This durable and elegant art, under the patronage of the present pope, has been revived, and carried to a high pitch of perfection, at Rome

LETTER XV.

Constantinople, May 10, 1792.

In consequence of a multiplicity of engagements, from which I could not possibly disentangle myself, I was obliged yesterday to conclude my letter rather abruptly. I have not, however, allowed myself to remain long idle, and, by resuming my narrative so soon, the whole will, in all probability, be conveyed to you by the same post, so that your curiosity will not suffer very materially from the anxiety of suspense.

St. Sophia has served as a model to all the other moschs, which are built more or less in imitation of it. The Solimany, founded by the munificence of Solyman the second, approaches nearest to its prototype both in the costliness of its marble,

and the size and proportions of its principal dome. The next in rank is the mosch of Validé*, the favourite sultana of Ibrahim, and mother of Mahomet the fourth, an enterprising and ambitious woman, who for many years directed the councils, and managed the affairs, of the Porte, and was the first female that obtained permission to erect a public place of worship.

As the grand seignor goes publicly to mosch but once a week, which is on a friday; the day after our arrival, we made a point of seeing the ceremony.

Crossing over from Galata, which is separated from Constantinople by a narrow channel, before we landed, we employed above an hour in rowing about the harbour, which presents one of the most lively, beautiful, and interesting spectacles imaginable. It is very spacious, being fifteen or sixteen miles in circumference, and

* Validé-Sultana is a general appellation for sultana-mother.

the water is covered with ships of war, merchantmen from different quarters of the globe, and a surprising number of boats which are in continual motion, and remarkable for their elegance of shape and decoration.

This harbour, on account of its curved form and the riches it brought to the city, was known to the ancients under the expressive epithet of the *golden horn*. The water, not being subject to the vicissitudes of tides, is always nearly of the same depth, and merchant-vessels, at all seasons of the year, can unload their cargoes at the wharf.

The old walls of Constantinople, which are in some parts double, and defended by towers, are still in tolerable repair; but the streets have a more gloomy appearance than those of Galata or Pera. They are narrow, dirty, and miserably paved, and, from the unevenness of the ground, are very fatiguing to foot passengers. All the houses are built of wood, which is brought from the coasts of the Black sea,

and they consist, in general, of two stories, of which the upper one projects so much, that in many places you can shake hands across a street. You are now and then surprised by the appearance of a bazar, a market, a caravansary, a mosch, or a public bath, which diverts the attention from the insipid dulness of private dwellings. In our way to the seraglio, we passed through the street of Adrianople, which is the widest and longest in the city. We were attended in this excursion by a janizary and a dragoman, or interpreter, the one serving, as a security to our persons, the other, to explain to us any thing that might attract our attention. A number of these dragomans are attached to the different embassies, and they are frequently people of extensive information. They are very expert at languages, and their knowledge in law and phyſic sometimes raises them to the highest offices of the state. Many of them, however, are too prudent to accept of places at a court, where nothing is stable,

where one revolution speedily destroys what another has produced, and where the road to preferment is also the road to ruin.

When we reached the seraglio, the sultan* was on his return, which is an exact repetition of the ceremony when he goes. My expectations had been considerably raised by an ideal contemplation of the pompous train of an oriental monarch, and, as is generally the case, when the reality was presented to my senses, my disappointment was proportionable: for, after having seen the splendid processions of the other parts of Europe, certainly those of the Turkish emperor are not calculated to produce much surprise.

Before his arrival, a number of his attendants were continually riding in and out of the seraglio, in a disorderly manner. Sometimes twenty or thirty succeeded, two abreast, when the line was abruptly

* The name of the present emperor is Selim III. He succeeded to the throne of his ancestors on the 6th of April 1789.

broken off, and quite discontinued for a few minutes, at the expiration of which, it recommenced. The captain of the janizaries, the chief of the eunuchs, and several of the other great officers of state attended. Their horses were richly caparisoned, and adorned with gold chains and other rich trappings, some of which were curiously embossed, and studded with precious stones: but their own robes, though costly, being lined with furs of great value, were rather plain than brilliant. As they passed they were saluted by the janizaries, a rank of whom was stationed on each side. Their manner of salutation is remarkable, and exhibits a disgusting picture of Eastern servitude and humility. They incline their heads to one side, exposing their bare necks, and intimating, by this gesture, that their lives are at the entire disposal of these supercilious tyrants. How the character of man shrinks from the dignity which nature meant it to assert in the scale of creation, when it submits to such demonstrations of ductile im-

becility and timid baseness! They were very shabbily clothed, but as they receive hardly any pay from their master, *they*, poor fellows! were excusable. The sultan did not appear till near the close of the procession. The turban of state was carried before him, and he was surrounded by about thirty pages on foot, who wore caps ornamented with immense plumes of feathers, thickly planted, and extended in the the shape of a fan. He is rather a handsome man, about thirty years of age, and was mounted on a beautiful Arabian steed*. He looked remarkably grave, and noticed nobody. The janizaries repeated their salutation both to the turban and the emperor as they passed.

* There are no carriages in Constantinople, and the sultan generally goes about the city on horseback. —When he takes a ride a few miles into the country, he is attended by a numerous guard, which is very diligent in keeping the road clear from the intrusion of strangers. His horses are brought from Arabia and the remotest provinces of the empire, and are purchased at a great expence.

Whilst I was contemplating the features of this mighty potentate, so far from feeling any emotions of awe and respect, I rather regarded him with an eye of alternate commiseration and contempt. And, indeed, although possessed of one of the finest and most extensive countries in the world, his situation is far from being enviable. Before he was elevated to the throne, he was, in obedience to the uniform policy of the court, kept a close prisoner, and never allowed to stir without the walls of the seraglio. Totally uninformed, and blinded by the imposing artifices and servile adulation of his ministers, his life is a constant delusion, and he is the continual sport of craft and corruption. The knowledge of every virtue which can ennoble the heart, or elevate the views, or refine the understanding, of man, is carefully suppressed, that the hatred of vice may not be imbibed, and that its votaries may not be punished. Unacquainted with the noblest sentiments of our nature, and forbidden the enjoyment of those feelings

which are founded on mutual confidence and esteem, all his pleasures must flow from a contaminated source. The tyranny that has, previous to his elevation, been exercised by others towards him, awakens continual suspicion, and makes him a tyrant in his turn. Bribery, corruption, and cruelty, are the fundamental principles of his government, and the dread of his people is the support and security of his power. Such is the humiliating portrait of a despot's life!

The seraglio, which was begun by Mahomet II. is a vast but inelegant pile of stone buildings, situated on a point of land which runs into the sea, and which is the spot where formerly flourished the city of Bysantium. It is inclosed by high walls, which are said to be nearly three miles in circumference, and is enlivened with gilded spires and turrets, and a multitude of small domes which are roofed with lead. Including the haram, it consists of twelve courts, which have been erected at different periods, and according to the various

tastes of the reigning princes; so that but little attention, if any, has been paid to uniformity, or the common rules of architecture. The apartments are spacious and richly furnished, though not in a manner that would correspond with our ideas of taste. They are chiefly ornamented with Turkish inscriptions; aphorisms in Arabic; pictures gaudily and coarsely executed; fountains, marble basons, sofas, baths, and the presents which have been made by the ambassadors from foreign courts, such as mirrours, vases, carpets, and other kinds of household furniture. The upper apartments are occupied by the women, and have domes with golden crescents, cabinets, balconies, galleries, and terraces.

The gardens, which are reserved for the sultan and his ladies, are of considerable extent, planted with cypresses and other evergreens, and adorned with, parterres of flowers, fountains, alcoves, and chiosks.

These chiosks, which are very numerous in Turkey, are a kind of pavilion, raised a

few feet from the ground, and open on every side, to admit a free circulation of air. Many of them are fitted up at an enormous expence, being paved and incrusted with the most precious marbles, and embellished with magnificent fountains, painted ceilings, embroidered sofas, and rich carpets. They are generally, when the situation admits of it, erected on the borders of rivers or lakes, and most of the opulent Turks have them in their gardens, where they sleep in the summer time after dinner, or sit chatting with their women, enjoying their conversation, and the coolness of the evening breeze.

The principal entrance into this remarkable palace is through a large gate, whence the title of the Sublime Porte originates. It is very lofty, and arched at top; and, on each side, are several windows intermixed with Arabian inscriptions. About four hundred porters keep guard at the different gates, of whom forty or fifty are stationed at this. These are the ministers of vengeance whom the sultan dis-

patches to his provinces for the heads of those governors, who have disobeyed his orders, or disappointed his expectations.

Of the twelve courts, strangers are only admitted into the two first, which are subdivided into, the offices for the residence of the menial servants; an infirmary for the sick, where the most expert physicians and surgeons regularly attend; the stock of wood for the consumption of the palace; the kitchens, which form a long range, and have domes with holes in the centre to let out the smoke; a small stable where those horses are kept which are reserved for the emperor's particular use; the divan; the treasury; and the mint. The second court is better paved, and, in every respect, much handsomer than the first, being laid with turf in the middle, embellished with fountains, and surrounded with a gallery which is supported by pillars of marble. The divan, where the foreign ministers receive their public audiences, and deliver their credentials and presents, previous to their admission to

the sultan, is nothing more than a large hall, lined with wainscoting. Here it is that the grand vizir presides as judge, and determines all civil and criminal causes. He convenes a court four times a week for the dispatch of business, and every subject of the empire, even the meanest, has the privilege of being heard. But, as trials are determined very rapidly; as little trouble is taken to investigate the truth; as the testimony of any witness is admitted; as the rich, in every country, discover their influence; and as there is no appeal from the decision of the judge; the innocent and the guilty are frequently confounded together; and it is but seldom that strict and impartial justice is administered. On points of religion or affairs of conscience, the vizir applies to the mufti, who is always present, and is guided by his advice. In the provincial towns, the cadis are invested with nearly a similar extent of juridical authority; but as their integrity is more exposed to the allurements of a bribe, and the effects of prejudice are felt in

greater force, the source of justice is still more corrupt. Neither the religious orders nor the janizaries are amenable to the ordinary courts, but have their own separate tribunals. Our conductor, among other curiosities, pointed out to us the place where the grand vizir's head is generally exposed, after deposition. At this moment that important but perilous office is vacant. The last who filled it was an able and popular man; but, through the cabals and intrigues of his enemies, he was lately dismissed, and another is not yet appointed to succeed him. The almost invariable rule of decollation was waved in his favour, and he has been permitted to retire; but, being very rich, he is perhaps reserved for a day of future necessity.

In the mint a number of men are constantly employed in manufacturing the various coins of the country, which, according to the exigencies of the state, are debased and diminished. At present, their intrinsic value is so small, that, out of Turkey, they will scarcely pass for any

thing. One part of this office is allotted for the fabrication of ornamental gold and silver for the seraglio, and we were shewn several articles which were nearly finished, and the workmanship of which would not have disgraced a more civilized part of Europe.

This is all that a stranger is permitted to explore. To penetrate farther, the penalty would be death.

The internal government of the seraglio is entirely under the management of the chiefs of the black and white eunuchs. The kislar aga, or chief of the black eunuchs, is an office of the highest trust and emolument. He has the superintendance of all the royal moschs, and the appointment of the officers attached to their service. He is purveyor to the pleasures of his master; has an absolute sway in the apartments of the women; and is the responsible guardian of their honour. The number of these unhappy females is not limited, but depends entirely on the taste or constitution, or caprice, of the reigning

prince. They are the most beautiful and accomplished women of the empire, being purchased by the grand seignor's agents, or sent to him in presents by the governors of the provinces. They are never allowed to stir without the walls of the seraglio, where most of them waste their bloom in the silence of neglect, or the torments of despair, and where every word, action, and look, are rigidly watched by the jealous vigilance of their haughty and sullen keepers.

The capi aga, or chief of the white eunuchs, also possesses a very extensive authority. He commands all the pages of the palace, and superintends the education of the young men who are brought up in the seraglio. Those, who have a promising appearance, are taught to read the Persian, Arabic, and Turkish languages, and are thoroughly initiated in the mysterious duties of the religion of Mahomet. They are besides instructed in all the Eastern accomplishments, such as riding on horseback, drawing the bow,

and darting the jirid, and are frequently advanced from the domestic service of the palace, to the command of armies, and the government of provinces. The strictest attention is paid to their morals. They are severely chastised for the slightest misdemeanor, and are obliged to pass through a long and perilous noviciate, before they arrive at the honour of waiting on the person of their master. Those who give no proofs of genius, but are endowed with strong and active powers of body, are reserved for the menial offices of the palace, and make up the list of porters, cooks, butchers, and gardeners.

Near the outer gate of the seraglio there is a magnificent fountain, which was built by Achmet III. It is a small square building, roofed with lead, and provided with several spouts, and is richly adorned with paint and gilding, and inscriptions in the Turkish and Arabic characters. The fountains, indeed, are very numerous, and yield a constant and abundant supply of water, enabling the Mussulmans to fulfil,

without much inconvenience, the daily ablutions which their religion requires. They are all nearly of the same form, and are more or less overloaded with glaring ornaments.

Every sultan, when he dies, has a mausoleum erected to his memory. On our return home, we stopped to see that of the late emperor. His ashes are surrounded by those of his children, who were numerous, and each coffin is covered with embroidered cloth, and splendidly decorated. Lamps and wax tapers are kept constantly burning, and the father's tomb is distinguished from the others, by a turban, which is placed on a cushion at his head.

The Turks pay great reverence to their dead, and the ceremonies they observe at an interment are very remarkable. When any person dies, the intelligence is immediately published by the dreadful howlings which are made by the women, belonging to the house. All his relations and friends then assemble, and join in these lamentations, after which a mournful dirge is

sung to his praise, and a solemn prayer offered up for his future happiness. Sometimes, these pitiful strains last for two or three days, and those who are not disposed to express, for so long a time, such violent symptoms of grief, hire people for the occasion. The deceased is then conveyed on a bier to the place of interment, and, if he be a man of consequence, he is attended by a numerous and pompous train of horses, slaves, and domestics*. On his arrival, he is enveloped with a sheet, which is left open at the head and feet; and boards are placed over his body that the soil may lie lightly on him. When his remains are deposited in the earth, the howlings are renewed; incense is burnt to chase away evil spirits; and cypresses are planted at each end of the grave, which, whilst

* In the houses of the great, the domestics are numerous, as a separate office is allotted to each; for example, one brings the coffee, another the pipe, a third, the conserves, and so on: so that for every want of the master, however trivial, an additional servant is maintained.

young and tender, are cultivated with great care by his relations, who are, in general, very desirous that they should thrive. It is imagined that the defunct, shortly after his interment, undergoes a severe examination by incorporeal judges, and that, according to the life he has led, he is tormented by the agents of hell, or comforted by the ministers of heaven, who reveal to his enraptured sight, the hanging gardens, delicious fruits, resplendent fountains, and beautiful damsels, which will be his reward, on his entrance into paradise.

As the Turks never destroy any monuments, or bury twice in the same spot, the ground about Constantinople, which is consecrated to this solemn purpose, occupies an immense space. Their burying-places are always situated near the highways, that they may excite the attention and compassion of passengers, and induce them to pray for the peace and felicity of the departed spirits; and the cypresses, with which they are planted, give them a very gloomy and awful appearance. The

monuments consist of two large stones, which are raised at the head and foot of the grave, and many of them are of fine marble, ornamented with inscriptions in letters of gold, and white or green turbans or bonnets. Some few, which are erected to the memory of persons of eminent rank, are extremely costly, and enclosed with an iron rail which is painted green. But they seem to groan under the weight of their decorations, and are totally devoid of taste. Those of the women are not allowed such fastidious distinctions.

One day, as I was walking about the city, I had an opportunity of observing the devout attention which the Mussulmans pay to the funeral rites of their countrymen. I met six people, carrying a man, who, but a few hours before, had died of the plague. When they were fatigued, they put down the bier in the middle of the street, and, shortly after, as many others took it up. This ceremony was repeated by the nearest spectators, till it was conveyed to the place of inter-

ment, it being one of the most sacred duties of their religion, never to refuse their assistance on this awful occasion. A priest marched solemnly before, and chanted aloud, as he led the way.

The castle of the Seven Towers is situated on that angle of the city which borders on the sea of Marmara. It is built in the form of a pentagon, and the roof is covered with lead. The treasure of the grand seignor was formerly deposited in this fortress, but it has since been converted into a state prison, to which the foreign ambassadors are sent, whenever their masters declare war against the Porte. The sultan considers himself so superior to every other potentate, that he scorns to respect those rights and privileges which are so rigidly enforced in christian countries, in favour of the representatives of crowned heads *.

* The last foreign minister, that was imprisoned there, was the Russian envoy in 1781, previous to the commencement of hostilities.

At a short distance from the Hippodrome, there is a large subterraneous building, which is arched, and supported by upwards of two hundred bulky marble pillars. At present it is occupied by silk spinners; but was formerly a reservoir for water, which, in case of fire, furnished the city with an immediate supply. If it were still reserved for its original purpose it would not be amiss, for the ravages of this devouring element are very frequently and very severely felt. From this place we went to see the emperor's wild beasts, which are kept in an old tower close by; but we found no very curious or rare animals, and most of the capital cities of Europe can boast of a better collection.

Several of the hans at Constantinople are magnificent buildings, of a square form, and so spacious that they are capable of accommodating two or three hundred people. The monasteries, though pretty numerous, are not to be remarked for their elegance. They, however, in general, possess the most eligible situations,

which is the case, I think, in every country where ecclesiastics have been encouraged to display their taste. The markets are extensive, and well supplied, particularly with game, poultry, fish, and vegetables. The baths are very numerous; but we look in vain for the marbles and statues of the ancients; nor are any of them, at present, either for space or decoration, comparable to those near Brusa. The coffee-houses are without number. Most of them are curiously painted, and, in form, have a near similitude to the buildings of the Chinese. Here the Turks assemble, not as we do, to read newspapers, to talk politics, or to conduct mercantile affairs, but to doze away their time over tobacco and coffee, which they consume in astonishing quantities.

Galata and Pera are the two principal suburbs of Constantinople, and, separately taken, would each form a respectable city. There is another small suburb, called Topana, beyond which, the Turks have an arsenal, and a foundery for cannon.

Galata stands on a rising ground, and

is defended by a wall, which was erected by the Genoese, who, for above a century, were its acknowledged masters. It forms the entrance of the harbour from the north, and, on account of the convenience of its situation, most of the European merchants have compting-houses and magazines in this quarter. To protect them, also, in some measure, from the dreadful havock which the fires occasion, many of them have fire-proof warehouses*, where they store their most valuable merchandize; for the Turks, being fatalists, disdain to introduce into their country the inventions of more enlightened nations, and have never yet been prevailed upon to provide themselves with fire-engines. The tower, which is built on a lofty hill, exceeds one hundred and forty feet in height. The quays are extensive, and are planted with artillery, which, to the great amusement of the people, is discharged

* The European merchants at Smyrna have also warehouses built on a similar construction, which, in Turkish cities, are the only security against fire.

on days of festivity. Some of the guns are of an enormous caliber, but they are all without carriages.

From Galata there is a considerable ascent to Pera, which stands in a delightful situation, commanding a view of Constantinople, the seraglio, the harbour, and the distant hills of Asia. It is the residence of all the ambassadors and foreign ministers, whose houses, after the Eastern manner, are styled palaces. Most of the opulent merchants have also their dwelling-houses here, for it is by far the most agreeable place to live in, the streets being wider and more scattered, and the air consequently purer, than either at Constantinople or Galata.

We were so desirous of seeing the principal bazar, that we overcame our dread of the plague, and one morning crossed over to Constantinople for that express purpose. It is a large square structure, neatly paved with flat stones, and covered with domes, which are sustained by arches and pilasters. Merchants are drawn from

the most distant parts of the empire to make purchases at this grand repository, which is also the receptacle of half the idle people of the city, who keep sauntering about for hours, drinking coffee and sherbet, and examining and cheapening goods. The shops, which are placed in front of the warehouses, are furnished with all kinds of merchandize, are kept very clean, and most of them are ornamented with gilding and paint. Each distinct trade is carried on in a separate quarter, and the jewellers, embroiderers, and cutlers, make a splendid appearance. The arts, in their present state, nearly correspond with the descriptions that have been given of them centuries ago. They evince, no spirit of emulation, no desire of improvement, no love of novelty. If a Turk can imitate what has been performed by his predecessor, he is perfectly satisfied with his exertions, and attempts nothing further. Thus they never vary their utensils, their machinery, or their patterns; but, pursuing the road

which was opened to them by their ancestors, they copy, with the same servility, their discoveries and their defects.

The slave market, which is at a small distance from this bazar, we did not venture to enter, but I am told that it exhibits a curious scene. The Jews carry on this unfeeling and infamous traffic, and bring the women from Greece, Candia, Mingrilia, Georgia, Circassia*, and still more remote provinces. A multitude of females, of various ages and descriptions, are in constant attendance at this grand emporium of legal prostitution, expecting every day to be transferred into other hands. Those, on whom nature has lavished her bounties, fetch considerable sums of money; but those, who are destitute of personal attractions, are sold at a very low rate, and are destined to fill the vilest domestic offices. Before a bargain

* From Mingrilia, Georgia, and Circassia, alone (which constituted the ancient kingdom of Colchos) upwards of fifteen thousand slaves are exported annually.

is struck, they are obliged to display all the accomplishments they have acquired, and to submit to an examination of their charms which is altogether offensive to modesty. What can beauty expect, when it is thus degradingly bartered for gold, but lasting and consummate misery and contempt? Even those, who are purchased for the seraglio, have not much cause to rejoice at their fortune; for although some few of them may be distinguished by the caresses of the sultan, the greater part is suffered to wither in neglect, and, when their master dies, they are removed to the old seraglio, where they linger out the remainder of life in hopeless solitude and despair. If they have children, at the accession of a new prince, they are generally destined to weep over their premature death, it being the jealous and detestable policy of the Ottoman court to banish all dread of competition by the fatal application of the bow-string.

The most beautiful girls are not, however, to be procured at the public market;

but are kept in the private houses of the Jews, where they are educated at a great expence, being taught to embroider, to dance, to sing, and to play on divers musical instruments; and where they are sedulously initiated in the practice of all the arts and allurements, which the warmth of imagination can conceive, or the tenderness of passion inspire.

Besides the slaves who fill the harams of the men, most of the Turkish ladies of distinction maintain a numerous retinue of these unfortunate females. No expence is spared on their dress or education. Their chief business is to attend at the toilette of their mistress, to adjust or change her attire, or to endeavour to beguile the hours away, by singing and dancing, or playing on the lute or guitar. Their dances, which are highly voluptuous, resemble the Spanish fandango. They use the castanets, and throw themselves into an endless variety of languishing and indecent attitudes, which create ideas they

can never realize, and provoke appetites they can never enjoy

The Turks are extremely jealous of their women, so that females of condition are seldom to be seen in the streets. When, however, they do go abroad, they are obliged to wear a veil and a loose robe, which effectually conceal both their faces and persons. At home their dresses are surprisingly gorgeous and expensive, and those, belonging to the great, squander immense sums of money in the articles of embroidery and jewels. Their turbans and girdles are bespangled with diamonds and other precious stones, and their hair is not unfrequently braided with pearls. One of the most important occupations of their indolent lives is to deck out their persons to the best advantage; and they indulge, without restraint, in the boundless caprices of fancy and taste. They shape their brows, paint their cheeks, stain the tips of their fingers red, and pencil a black mark round their eyes, which they imagine adds to their brilliancy and expression.

A Turk may legally possess four wives; a law of the most pernicious and iniquitous nature, as it excludes the poor from the possession of women, and, by an improper division of the sexes, bursts asunder every bond of morality, and engenders every species of odious and unnatural vice. Their marriages are attended with a surprising degree of pomp and ceremony. The parties, however, never see each other till every thing is finally adjusted, when the bride, amidst the rejoicings of her relations and friends, is conveyed on horseback to her husband's house. He provides the dowry, and, in case of repudiation, unless he can assign a reasonable cause, is obliged to continue the payment of her settlement; nor can he reclaim her, should his affection return, till she has passed a night with another man.

The Turks consider their women as an inferior race of beings, and proudly imagine that they are sent into the world merely for the purposes of propagation and do-

mestic superintendence. If they fulfil these duties, the law of Mahomet does not exclude them from the rewards of a future state; although their paradise is separate, and subordinate to that of the men: but if they unfortunately die unmarried, they die in a state of irremediable reprobation. They are reported to be tender and affectionate in their nature; but tyrannical confinement and seclusion will frequently create bad propensities, and pervert the best dispositions. At Constantinople, intrigues are carried on to a scandalous extent, and the Jews and Jewesses, who, in every country, are ready to undertake any thing for money, appoint the places of assignation; watch the most commodious opportunities; carry messages; and assist in disguising the parties. If, however, the husband is vigilant or active enough to catch his wife with her paramour, he seldom waits the decision of a court of law, but instantly sacrifices the delinquents to his revenge. Nor does the government deign to notice these atrocious acts of

barbarity. As in the feudal times with us, the punishment is left in the hands of the relations of the deceased, who, according to their disposition, seek redress by retaliation, or compound for the murder by enforcing the payment of a pecuniary fine.

I had almost forgotten to mention that on our return from the bazar, we were obliged to take off our coats, and to have them exposed, for a few hours, in the open air, to purify them from any infection which might have adhered to them. At Smyrna, where they are much more apprehensive of the plague, under similar circumstances, we should at least have undergone the ceremony of fumigation; but, at Constantinople*, where it is seldom quite extinct, it does not so readily excite alarm.

* The first plague that visited Constantinople happened during the reign of Justinian. It travelled westward from Pelusium, where it first broke out, over the whole continent of Europe, and raged for fifty-two years, in which time it nearly half depopulated that portion of the globe. See Procopius.

The country seats belonging to the emperor are chiefly on the banks of the canal, at a small distance from the city; but are by no means splendid edifices. He has a kiosk, supported by marble pillars, which looks immediately on the harbour, and, from which, when he goes a pleasuring on the canal, he generally embarks. He is fond of water expeditions, and often makes excursions in his barges, some of which are fitted up with sumptuous magnificence, and are rowed by an hundred men, who are amazingly expert in the management of their oars, and move together with the nicest exactness. At present he is building a state barge, which is nearly finished, and most richly and profusely fitted up with every article of convenience, embellishment, and splendour.

From the elegance of the boats and barges, one would expect to find some taste displayed in the construction of the ships of war; but they are, for the most

part, so awkward in shape, and so overloaded with gilding, carving, and painting, that they have a very unwieldy and heavy appearance. Notwithstanding the strength and size of these vessels, the Turkish sailors are so inexpert, and so thoroughly unacquainted with naval tactics, that, in engagements with any of the other powers of Europe, they are uniformly beaten, if the force is in any shape on an equality, and not unfrequently, when it is greatly inferior. I dined a few days ago in company with an English officer, who, during the late war with Russia, had served on board the Turkish fleet, and had been in an action. He gave a miserable account of the Turks as seamen, and said, that they were destitute of every good quality; that they observed no discipline; and possessed neither courage, activity, nor skill.

The police of Constantinople, which is under the direction of the governor or mayor, is, in many respects, extremely well regulated. The price of provisions

is fixed according to the plenty or scarcity of the different commodities, and there are officers, in constant attendance, to examine the weights and measures, and to see that every purchaser receives his due. If they detect any one committing a fraud, he is instantly delivered over to the magistrate of the parish, and bastinadoed or severely fined. Fraudulent bakers are nailed by the ear to the doors of their own shops, and convicted liars are burnt with an iron on the forehead; a wholesome regulation if it were always impartially administered, as a regard for truth is one of the firmest supports of society. The shops throughout the year are opened at the rising, and shut at the setting, of the sun; and a strong patrol parades the streets every night, to take up disorderly people, and preserve the peace and security of the inhabitants.

Though there are many delightful spots near Constantinople, the country does not, on the whole, please me so much as the environs of Smyrna. Belgrade and Bu-

jukderè are the two prettiest villages in the neighbourhood, and are the places where the Franks chiefly reside during the summer season. The former is situated in the middle of a beautiful wood, which is refreshed by several currents of limpid water, and is, in my opinion, much to be preferred: the latter commands a fine view of the canal, on whose borders it stands. In our way to Belgrade, we passed through some rich and extensive meadows, where the grand seignor's horses, which are very numerous, are kept at this time of the year. They were all fastened to the ground by a tether, and a great many tents were pitched for the accommodation of those who had the care of them, and which, from being intermixed with such a crowd of horses, produced a very pleasing effect.

By deviating a little from the direct road, we had an opportunity of seeing an aqueduct, which was erected by Justinian, and which, although not comparable to that near Nismes, is by no means an inconsider-

able structure. A degeneracy of taste is, however, immediately perceptible, which informs you that it is not a production of the Augustan age. It consists of two bridges, one built upon the other, and each supported by four noble arches, the effect of which is much diminished by several very diminutive ones, that are crowded into the intermediate spaces. The cones, which are erected against the sides to strengthen them, are all reversed, and have a singular appearance. This aqueduct was raised to conduct water to the metropolis (where few springs are to be found) and it still serves for that purpose. We had not proceeded much farther, when we came in view of three Turkish aqueducts, which, though evidently built in imitation of the one already mentioned, from the prevalence of Turkish ideas, are clumsy and grotesque specimens of masonry. In the wood of Belgrade, there is an immense bason, which supplies them with water.

We dined at Mr. Tooke's at Belgrade, where we spent a most agreeable day, and

in the evening we took a walk into the wood, which is an enchanting spot. It is of considerable extent, and is planted chiefly with birch, and fruit trees, which form a thick shade, and a delightful retreat from the scorching rays of the summer and autumnal sun. The turf, which is of the brightest verdure, is refreshed by several noble sheets of limpid water; and the sky, for months, is so tranquil and transparent that not a vapour is to be seen. The most refreshing breezes are wafted from the Black Sea, which moderate the heat of the atmosphere; and parties of Greeks frequently assemble in the evening, and pass a few hours in the cheering and rational amusements of music, dance, and song. Scenes like these are so demonstrative of happiness, that they always speak with effect to the heart; and the innocent gaiety of an artless peasantry is, perhaps, that particular cast of disposition which conveys to the mind, more forcibly than any thing else, an idea of perfect enjoyment.

On our return home, we passed through Bujukderè, and entered Pera by night. The moschs, which, on account of the Ramazan, were all illuminated, made a very grand and brilliant appearance; but what most surprised me, was the astonishing number of dogs which we found lying in every part of the streets, and which had already taken up their lodging for the night. It was with the greatest difficulty we could prevent our horses from treading on them, for they were so lazy, that the imminent danger which threatened them did not, in the least, rouse them from their lethargy. They are of a large breed, and are at times so savage, that it is dangerous to walk in the streets after the evening has closed in. On our journey from Smyrna, we had been very much annoyed by these animals. In the villages, particularly, they swarmed to such a degree, and were so troublesome, that as soon as we came in sight of the houses, we generally deemed it adviseable to descend from our horses, and fill our pockets with stones, which

we employed as defensive weapons. One morning, I recollect, I was a good deal diverted with an incident that occurred, as we were entering one of these villages. A strange dog, with an abundance of strength in his limbs, and of fierceness in his countenance, made a most violent and unprovoked attack on a cur belonging to one of our guides, and which was by no means his match. This so enraged his master, that he, in an instant, sprang from his horse, and with his drawn sabre pursued the wretched animal for two or three hundred yards. The dog, however, had so much the advantage in point of fleetness, that the indignant Turk was at length obliged to abandon the pursuit, and to satisfy himself with the desire he had shewn of revenging the injury.

Constantinople, considering its populousness and situation, is not a place of very extensive commerce. The principal articles of importation from Great Britain, are shalloons, cloths, tin, and watches, for which they send, in return, silk and drugs.

But the facilities of trade must necessarily be very much cramped from the numerous heavy restraints and difficulties under which it labours, and which chiefly arise out of the very nature aud defects of the government. The commerce of Turkey is, indeed, in many respects, in an infant state, and as long as men are fearful of discovering their wealth, that powerful influence of confidence and credit* which wealth, particularly in commercial con-

* The Franks, indeed, sell particular goods to the Turks on credit; but these transactions are on a very different scale from those which take place in their own countries. Watches and pistols, which are generally purchased by the immediate consumers, are paid for in ready money; but tin, lead, sugar, and coffee, which are called ready money articles, are not paid for before the expiration of three months; and the payments for shalloons and muslins, which are usually sold on a credit of six months, are seldom completed in less than twelve. The Turks neither give nor require receits, nor are they bound, by any written engagement, for any sums they may owe. You are entirely dependent on their honour, which, however, in this respect, they do not often violate.

cerns, is calculated to command, cannot be expected to exist. Thus the Turks are obliged to trade chiefly on capital. The negotiation of bills, and the system of banking, which, however ruinous they may be when pushed too far, have certainly enabled the merchants of Europe to engage in undertakings, that, without their aid, could never have been attempted, are in Turkey totally unknown.

Limited, however, as the commerce is, by being confined to a few hands, many of the European merchants established here, have acquired ample fortunes, and live in considerable splendour. Their houses are substantially built, and fitted up with elegance, convenience, and taste.

The society is on a larger scale than that of Smyrna, but not so agreeable, on account of the tribe of foreign ministers, who distinguish themselves by a great deal of ridiculous parade, and insist on a degree of ceremony which destroys the freedom, and consequently the real enjoyment, of social engagements. They live at a great

expence, keep sumptuous tables and splendid equipages, and never stir out without guards and a numerous train of attendants and servants. When they visit each other they are punctiliously scrupulous in observing the forms which have been established to distinguish their different degrees of rank and precedency, and according to the number of times a bell tolls, it announces an ambassador, an envoy, or a chargé d'affaires. With the Turks, who are extremely fond of external show, it is perhaps proper that these ceremonies should be observed. They have an imposing appearance, and bespeak a consequence which has no real existence; but civilized people easily see through all this mummery, and, except on particular occasions, it would surely be much more rational to omit it.

It is but seldom you meet with a fireplace in the houses in Turkey, and the Franks have pretty generally adopted the Turkish fashion of heating their rooms. They make use of a contrivance called a *tendour*, which is nothing more than a

square table, large enough to accommodate eight or ten people. A pan of lighted charcoal is placed under it, and it is covered with a fine carpet, or some rich stuff, which, when pendent, is long enough to reach the ground, and consequently prevents a great portion of the heat from escaping. Those who are desirous of warming themselves, approach this table, and, lolling on a sofa, with which it is generally surrounded, pull the covering over their shoulders, and exhibit no inaccurate picture of Asiatic indolence. These machines are, however, by no means pleasant. They are also attended with much danger, and are frequently the occasion of fire in the Turkish houses.

The day before yesterday we dined at Sir Robert Ainslie's*, and, in the evening, accompanied him to count Potoski's, the Polish ambassador's, where a grand festival was given in honour of his sovereign's

* This gentleman was then ambassador at Constantinople from our Court.

birth-day. The count and his suite were richly dressed in the habit of their country, and the walls of the principal room were decorated with wreaths of flowers, twined round mottos which were suitable to the occasion. All the foreign ministers and their ladies, and the best company of Constantinople, were invited, and made altogether a numerous and elegant assemblage. The entertainment began with a concert of instrumental music, after which the company sat down to a sumptuous supper, and after the supper there was a ball. This nobleman, who is nearly related to the king, in addition to his private fortune, which is very considerable, receives from the Porte, as Polish ambassador, five hundred piasters a day; so that he can well afford to live in splendour*.

* It is remarkable, that two-thirds of the salary of our ambassador are paid by the Turkey Company, which is a very heavy tax on their funds. The regular annual disbursement is 2000l. besides other adventitious expences, which are frequently consider-

In Constantinople, a Frank, unless he be the aggressor, is not often seriously insulted. This, however, sometimes happens, and the best security is a janizary, who is considered by the populace with a certain degree of respect, and is generally found a faithful and zealous servant. Still, when any abusive language is used, the most prudent way is not to notice it; for, if a quarrel ensue, which ever party is in the wrong, the Turks, like other nations, will always support their countrymen. Since the last war, in which they were thoroughly convinced of their own weakness and degeneracy, and of the superiority of their adversaries, both in deeds of prowess and

able.—At the appointment of Mr. Liston, the late ambassador, the outfits and presents amounted to upwards of 2200l.—The salary, however, is not adequate to the station, and prevents our minister from living on an equality with the other members of the diplomatic corps, and from maintaining that dignity which is suitable to his rank, as the representative of the British empire.

skill, the Russians are more respected, or rather more dreaded, than any other Christian nation.

It is an occupation, both curious and amusing, to observe the versatility of the public mind; to attend to its rapid changes; and to watch how it is successively roused to energy, or depressed to inaction, by the chequered events of war. But the Turks will, perhaps, never recover from their present panic. The severe chastisement which they received at the hands of their northern neighbours, has left an impression, possibly, as durable as their name, among the list of independent states.

In Turkey, I observe, the Italian language prevails much more generally than the French, whether from its being acquired with greater facility, or from the long and intimate intercourse of its inhabitants with many of the Italian states, I cannot pretend to say. The Armenians, Jews, and others, who act as brokers, and transact business either for themselves or

for the European merchants, established in different parts of the empire, all converse fluently in Italian, whereas but few of them are at all acquainted with French. As a matter of taste (by which, however, we cannot suppose them to be governed) I think the Italian language is infinitely to be preferred to the French. It is more energetic, more musical, and has such a copious range of words, that it is equally calculated for poetry or prose, for the premeditated compositions of rhetoric, or the familiar effusions of conversation. It is a language, also, which well rewards the labour of cultivation, as it can boast of many of the most elevated productions of the human mind.

I cannot conclude this letter, without informing you of the kindness and hospitality of Mr. Tooke, a British merchant, settled here, who, when we delivered our letters to him, insisted that we should remain at his house, and, by his polite and affable behaviour, has

so entirely removed all restraint, that we already begin to consider ourselves at home.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XVI.

Galatz, May 24, 1792.

When I last wrote to you, I neglected to mention Scutari, a considerable town, in a delightful situation, on the Asian side of the canal, immediately opposite to Constantinople, and which many, though with no great propriety, consider as one of the suburbs of that metropolis. It is the only city which is at present on the eastern banks of the Bosphorus, and is the ancient Chrysopolis, near which that desperate battle was fought between Constantine and Licinius*, which secured to the former the undivided possession of the Roman world, and terminated those ob-

* Licinius was made prisoner at Chrysopolis, and carried thence to Thessalonica, where he was beheaded.

stinate struggles that lasted for so many years, and depopulated the fairest portions of the globe. This place, which is the principal rendezvous of the merchants from Armenia and Persia, carries on an extensive trade ; and the government, being an office of high importance, is intrusted to a pacha, who receives his appointment immediately from the grand seignor. At no great distance from this spot once flourished the ancient Chalcedon, which, as you will recollect, was stigmatized with the appellation of the *blind*, on account of the stupidity of its founders, the Megarians, in the choice of their situation.

On the 10th of May we quitted Constantinople, and, that we might have a finer view of the canal, we went in a boat to Bujukderé.

This canal is the ancient Thracian Bosphorus, so famous in history, through which the waters of the Euxine incessantly flow into the sea of Marmara, and, after continuing their course through the Hellespont, finally disembogue them-

selves into the Mediterranean. It abounds in a variety of currents, among which there is one that, on account of its singularity, merits particular notice. Beneath the stream which descends towards the sea of Marmara, there is, at a certain depth, a current which flows in a contrary direction, mounting from the point of the seraglio to the castles. This fact is clearly ascertained by the fishermen, who, when they drop their nets, find them, for several fathoms below the surface, carried down the canal, from north to south; but, if they continue to let them sink, the lower part evidently curves the contrary way, and is borne against the upper stream. This is an ancient discovery, but no satisfactory reason, as to the cause, has hitherto been assigned *.

This celebrated strait which separates the two continents of Europe and Asia, reckoning from the harbour of Constantinople to the Cyanean rocks, extends

* See Tournefort, vol. ii. page 401.

about sixteen miles in length; and its ordinary breadth does not exceed above a mile and a half. In one spot, indeed, the opposite shores approach within five hundred paces of each other, which, when the wind is northerly, occasions the water to flow with wonderful rapidity. The *old* castles, which are planted with immense pieces of artillery, command this part of the canal, and here it was that Darius connected the two continents by a bridge of boats. These castles, whose walls are of an astonishing thickness, were originally erected by the Greek emperors, and were repaired and strengthened by Mahomet the second, preparatory to his siege of Constantinople. The *new* castles, which were built, by order of Mahomet the fourth, to check the incursions of the Muscovites and Cossac Tartars, secure the northern entrance of the strait. They stand on two opposite capes, one in Europe, the other in Asia, and repose on the ruins of the two celebrated temples of Serapis and Jupiter Urius. The curvature of the canal is

sometimes very considerable, and its banks, particularly on the European side, are lined, almost the whole way, with villages, fortresses, country seats, and chiosks. In some parts, the coast is steep and rugged, full of projecting rocks and deep caverns, which present a wild and romantic appearance: in other parts, every landscape is softened by the hand of art, and nothing is to be seen but verdant sloping meadows, rural cottages, and groves of fruit trees. The most enchanting and interesting views are continually inviting the eye. The anchorage is excellent; and the water, which abounds in a variety of delicious fish, is deep, and clear as crystal.

Between Constantinople and Scutari, some ruins are seen which are known by the appellation of Leander's tower. This building is said to have been raised to the memory of the untimely fate of that adventurous youth. But those who thus named it were probably unacquainted with the story, or had forgotten that it

was across the Hellespont * Leander used to swim, when he paid his nocturnal visits to the beautiful Hero. The fact is, it was erected by the emperor Manuel, and is supposed to have corresponded with another tower, from which chains were formerly extended to the coasts, to block up, in cases of emergency, the passage of the canal. The distance between the opposite shores, in this part, does not exceed five hundred paces, and it was here that Xerxes constructed his bridge of boats, for the passage of his immense but pusillanimous army.

Not being favoured by the wind, we were obliged to row the whole way, and above three hours had elapsed before we reached Bujukderé. This, however, was a detention which I did not at all regret, as it afforded me an opportunity of examining, at my leisure, this boasted spot, and of dwelling on those beautiful land-

* From Abydos to Sestos. See Ovid. Ep. 18 and 19.

scapes which successively presented themselves as we advanced.

We had been politely invited by Mr. Abbott to remain at his house, till we embarked on board our Greek vessel, in which we were to accompany Mr. Vanderschroef, a Dutch merchant, removing with his wife and family to Buchorest. We purposed to go by way of the Black sea, and, mounting the Danube as far as Galatz, to proceed thence to Buchorest by land. This appeared to be a more eligible plan, than encountering the danger and fatigue of travelling on horseback to Semlin; yet could I possibly have foreseen what time has disclosed, I am doubtful whether I should not have preferred the latter route.

Shortly after our arrival at Bujukderé, we waited on Mr. Vanderschroef to know when he had determined to embark. He replied, the moment the wind became favourable; but that there was little chance of its changing that night. After such an answer, we went to bed, at our usual hour, with apparent security. About two

o'clock in the morning, however, we were awakened out of a sound sleep, by a violent knocking at our chamber door, and the vociferation of a person, with whose voice we were totally unacquainted. I had quite forgotten where I was, and could not conceive the reason of such an untimely disturbance. At last, I thought I heard the name of Vanderschroef, which brought to my recollection all that had passed. We immediately jumped out of bed, and, hastily dressing ourselves, ran down stairs. We were in a great hurry and very impatient to be gone, but, as fate would have it, the key of the street door was missing, and the servants were searching above half an hour for it, before they could find it. We were, nevertheless, detained at Vanderschroer's a considerable time, and did not get under weigh till after five o'clock.

Bujukderé is but a few miles from the entrance of the Euxine, to guard which, several fortresses are erected on either shore, which, if kept in proper repair, and well supplied with men and ammunition, might

set at defiance the attack of almost any force. Baron de Tott employed his genius in strengthening this important pass, and a castle on the Asian coast was pointed out to us, which was built after a plan submitted by him to the Turkish government.

It was at the northern mouth of the Bosphorus, on the European side, that Phinæus king of Thrace kept his court, and where he entertained, for several days, Jason and his Argonauts, who, after leaving the inhospitable shores of Bithynia*, were obliged to apply to him for shelter from tempestuous weather and adverse winds. The ancients, who always dreaded the navigation of the Black sea, crowded the opposite shores, at the entrance, with votive temples to their favourite divinities, that they might be induced to appease its fury. The moderns have acted much

* The present Beiros is supposed to be the spot where formerly stood the capital of the kingdom of Amycus.

more wisely, in erecting two light-houses to point out to mariners the dangers of the Cyanean rocks. On one of these rocks there is a stone pillar, about fourteen feet high, which is known by the name of Pompey's pillar, and is said, though not with much probability, to have been erected by him, after his conquest of Mithridates, as a memorial of that splendid event.

The Euxine, or Black sea, is about two hundred leagues in circumference, and may be compared to an immense lake. It is the receptacle of several of the largest rivers in Europe; and as the canal of Constantinople, which is a very narrow strait, is the only visible outlet, many naturalists have been puzzled to account for its stationary appearance, whilst others have been of opinion, (and the opinion appears a very probable one) that its superfluous waters are carried off by means of subterraneous channels. Although we did not find it correspond exactly with the description the ancients have given of it, yet making allowance for the apprehensions of the

Argonauts, and the dissatisfaction of Ovid, we shall not be far removed from the truth. At least, whilst we were on it, it was extremely boisterous, the sky was obscure, and the weather cold. Till lately it was entirely under the dominion of the grand seignor, and no vessel could navigate on it without his permission, which was very cautiously granted; but the possession of the Crimea by the northern empress, has deprived him of this exclusive right, and will probably lead to more important consequences*.

Till two in the afternoon, I had felt no disagreeable effects from the motion of the vessel; and, as I had lately performed a long voyage, I was beginning to flatter myself that I should altogether escape.

* Although the credit of obtaining this privilege for Great Britain, has been, lately, attempted to be given to Lord Elgin, it is well known that it was secured to us by the exertions of Mr. Spencer Smith, so far back as the year 1799.—The treaties which have been recently entered into by the Turks have now, as far as political consequences operate, laid the navigation of this sea as open as the Mediterranean.

Shortly after that hour, however, some unfavourable symptoms betrayed themselves, and, in the course of a few minutes, I was seized with a deadly sickness, which continued with increasing violence till three the next morning, when it fortunately began to abate. Never do I remember to have passed so wretched a night. The cabin being small, and Vanderschroef's family numerous, there was no birth for us in it. We were therefore obliged to seek for shelter elsewhere. On inquiry, we found that there was no choice, and the only place kept vacant for us was at the head of the vessel, where there was a hole, (scarcely a fit residence for a dog) one half of which was allotted as the temple of repose for my brother and myself. When lying, we were so cramped for room, that it was quite a labour to turn, and the roof was so low, we could not even sit upright. The only light and air we received were admitted through the opening by which we entered, and which was so small, that before sickness had worn

us down, and practice rendered us expert, we ran the risk of sticking by the way. Our ingress and egress that night were perpetual. When I returned, I generally perceived my brother, with his head and shoulders out, inquiring with earnestness if the weather were mending, and telling me, with a mournful countenance, that he was preparing for another sally. These complicated misfortunes were not a little aggravated by the dreadful noise which the sailors unceasingly made with their voices and violins. I absolutely thought they would have driven me to distraction, and often wished for a little English discipline to keep these fellows to their duty, for they were inconceivably lazy, and under no kind of subordination. We would willingly have remained all night on deck; but the sea (which in these parts is generally much agitated) was so tempestuous, that we should, in all probability, have been washed overboard; and the consolations of hope, you know, dispose us to consider life as worth preserving, even

under the burden of the deepest afflictions. Our situation would have furnished some laughable scenes to the pencil of Bunbury; but we were too much weakened, and too immediately concerned, to enjoy them ourselves.

Both the Turks and Greeks are miserable sailors. They know very little about the management of the rigging and sails, and are so ignorant in other respects, that they are almost unacquainted with the use of the compass. A number of boats navigate on the Euxine with a sail and four oars; but it is only during the summer months, and they seldom venture out from the latter end of September till the beginning of May. Even then, they are so cautious that they come to anchor every night, and are careful never to lose sight of the coasts. Some of the first experiments in navigation were made on this sea by the enterprising genius of a race of heroes, and the Turks seem to have added scarcely any thing to the nautical knowlege or skill of these intrepid adventurers.

On the 12th, early in the morning, we passed Varna, and often have I lamented since, that we did not disembark there. It is a considerable town, and one of the best ports in the Euxine, famous in history for the desperate battle fought near it in 1444, between Amurat and Ladislaus king of Hungary, who lost the victory and his life. Ten thousand Christians were left on the field, and the slaughter of the Turks was so considerable, that the sultan confessed a similar victory would effectuate his ruin*.

On the 13th, at four o'clock in the morning, we were within two hours sail of the principal mouth of the Danube, when the wind suddenly changing, and shortly after blowing from the opposite quarter, we were driven back to a bay called Cavarna, (a little above Varna) where we were obliged to anchor. The waters of this bay wash the coast of Bulgaria; and here it was that the Russians and Turks last year had an obstinate en-

* See Gibbon's Rom. Emp. vol. xii. p. 163.

gagement, and whence the latter were, in the end, though without the loss of a single ship, compelled to retreat.

Tomis, the place so celebrated for the banishment of Ovid, was at no great distance from this spot, though there are various conjectures respecting its exact position. I could not help recalling to my mind the sufferings and complaints of the unfortunate bard, in which his elegant, but unfirm and luxurious, soul so forcibly describes, the horrours of being exposed to a savage race of people, a barren coast, a boisterous sea, and a tempestuous climate, and in which he so pathetically laments the deprivation of the pleasures and vices of Rome.

As we had all suffered much from illness, and the captain was of opinion that the contrary wind would still continue for several days, we determined, if any conveyance could be procured, to quit the vessel, and go to Galatz by land. He told us, there was a Turkish village about half a mile from the shore, to which Vander-

schroef repaired the day after our arrival, not forgetting our firman *. On his return, he informed us, that he had secured several carts and oxen, which would be ready for us the next morning. This piece of intelligence was received with universal joy, and on the 18th we accordingly disembarked. I expressed a desire of taking the whole of our baggage with us; but was given to understand that there was not room for our large trunk. I reluctantly left it behind, presaging, in a manner, the misfortunes to which in the sequel it gave rise.

Bulgaria formerly constituted a part of the kingdom of Hungary; but it was subdued by Amurat II, and has since then been annexed to the Turkish empire. The southern parts of it contain a few considerable towns, of which Sophia is the metropolis, and the residence of the beglerbeg, or viceroy, of Romelia.

The accommodations for travelling in

* This is a paper, corresponding to the passport of Christian countries.

this country are, beyond all description, deplorable, and the badness of the weather was no small addition to our other distresses; for our vehicles were in such a crazy condition, and so open on every side, that, notwithstanding we wrapped ourselves up as warmly as possible, we were very little protected from its inclemencies.

These vehicles, called by the people of the country arabàs, were long narrow carts, without springs, and covered with mats, which were quite rotten and full of holes. In order to be as comfortable as we could, we used to lay one mattress under us, and cover our baggage (which we piled up behind us, so as to make a support for our backs) with the other. We then placed ourselves side by side; but were so stinted for room, that this position, although the most eligible, was by no means a pleasant one. Our driver was seated in the front of the cart between our legs, and was in one respect of some utility; for, being a lusty fellow, he blocked up a considerable gap, and excluded no small portion of cold

wind. He possessed, what is ironically termed, a plentiful stock of modest assurance, and, whenever he felt himself cold, without any ceremony, would struggle hard to wriggle himself into the cart. Being, however, sufficiently squeezed without him, we never allowed him to succeed; but, not understanding his language, we were obliged, in our own defence, to have recourse to a method still more effectual, and to resist his encroachments with our feet.

Our oxen went at the rate of about three miles an hour: and, as they were not changed on the road, they could not travel above six or seven hours out of the four-and-twenty, so that we did not advance very expeditiously. Their owners were not at the trouble or expence of providing forage for them; but, when they were fatigued, would unyoke them, and turn them out to graze on whatever the country afforded.

Whilst we were on this road, we had a striking instance of the irascible and re-

vengeful disposition of the Turks. Two of our guides had had a difference of opinion on some trivial subject. The debate soon grew warm, and, in the course of a few minutes, they drew their knives, and began a furious attack, which, in all probability, would have terminated in some fatal catastrophe to the parties, had we not been present. We immediately interposed, but had great trouble in separating, and much more in pacifying, them.

The villages we passed through were wretched in the extreme, and plainly demonstrated the effects of a corrupt and tyrannic government; for although our firman secured to us the best lodging which each place furnished, we never ventured to expect any thing half so comfortable as an English barn. More than once we were all obliged to sleep in the same apartment, which was so small, that every inch of the ground was covered with our mattresses, and we could scarcely move, without making invasions on a neighbour's territory. There were several

ladies with us, to whom a situation of this kind must have been extremely inconvenient; yet a room thus inhabited, displayed a scene so novel and so truly ridiculous, that, the first time we were witnesses to it, we could not get to sleep for laughing.

Whenever we had the good fortune to meet with a fire-place, it was sure to be in the middle of the room, with a hole in the roof to let out the smoke; but which answered so badly the purpose for which it was contrived, that the moment our victuals (when we had any) were dressed, we extinguished the fire, preferring to suffer from cold to the risk of being stifled by the gross vapours which issued from half-dried wood.

We found the people of the country inhospitable savages, never yielding any assistance to us, but when it was compulsory. On our arrival they used to flock round us, and survey us with a mixture of terrour and surprise. They are indeed so accustomed to be plundered, that

they are dreadfully fearful of strangers, and carefully conceal from them even the necessaries of life. They possess in general a great deal of curiosity; are much addicted to low cunning; and, when lucre stimulates, and opportunity favours, will frequently proceed to open violence.

During the war, this unfortunate country was completely drained of its wealth by the pacha and other people in power, and the contributions which were levied on these miserable villages were, to the last degree, excessive. One in particular, called Cajarmari, where there are only eight hovels, and where the majority of the inhabitants has only a coarse shirt to veil their nakedness, paid annually, one thousand piastres; a sum so far beyond their ability to support, that it wrested from them every comfort of existence, and reduced them to a state of the most abject poverty and distress. Who can listen to a tale of such villany and persecution, without giving way to emotions

of indignation and horrour? Let us not, therefore, attribute that savageness of character, which I have already remarked, to any natural defect of disposition, but rather to the unrelenting cruelty and oppression of their insolent rulers: for human nature, when harassed by continual aggravation, loses, by degrees, all its mildness and benevolence, and necessarily engenders the seeds of distrust and revenge. Though frequently crushed to submission, the innate love of liberty still exists, and the delusive persuasions of hope will, at intervals, rouse it to activity. Anxious for redress, and panting with eagerness, for emancipation, if an opportune moment arrive, whilst the transitory flame of irritated passions animates the breast, we are not to be surprised, if it endeavour to assert its rights, and to retaliate those injuries by which it has been aggrieved. A propensity to hate our enemies, and to avenge the wrongs they have inflicted on us, is a principle which is coeval with the

instinctive feelings of the human frame. It has an eternal basis in nature, and prevails throughout the extent of the animal creation. It is a fundamental law which is universally established in the breast, and is neither to be subverted by sophistry, nor invalidated by persuasion, nor extirpated by power.

The country is remarkably level, and we traversed immense plains, so small a portion of which is cultivated, that the labours of the plough are almost unknown. They consist chiefly of pasture land, and the little grain that is raised, is of such an indifferent quality, that it is hardly fit for use. These plains stretch, with little interruption, from the foot of mount Hæmus, to the banks of the Danube, and have been the theatre of several desperate conflicts between the enterprising and irresistible Attila and the degenerate soldiers of Theodosius.

The climate is cold, and must be extremely unfavourable to vegetation, for scarcely a tree is any where to be seen;

but the cattle, such as horses, cows, and sheep, though not abundant, is healthy and strong.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XVII.

Galatz, May 26, 1792.

On the 18th, at two o'clock, we reached a village on the banks of the Danube, which we, of course, concluded was very near Galatz. Shortly after our arrival, however, as we were congratulating ourselves on the approaching termination of this irksome journey, one of our company, who had been chatting with the villagers for the sake of information, approached, and, with a disconsolate countenance, told us, that our guides had mistaken the road, and, instead of conducting us to the place that was opposite Galatz, had carried us about forty leagues higher up the river. This intelligence was enough to ruffle even the resigned temper of a stoick. Had we been travelling through

an interesting country, I should not perhaps have repined: but, when I considered that we had been traversing some thousand acres of waste land which presented nothing to the view but a few ruined villages, where desolation holds its dreary and solitary sway; when I reflected, moreover, on the loss of time we had incurred, and the fatigue we had undergone; that we had neither been enriched by the stores of knowledge, nor delighted by the charms of amusement; I confess that I was thoroughly discontented. Here it was, we had ample reason to lament having left our trunk on board the Greek vessel: we might, otherwise, by crossing the Danube, have proceeded to Buchorest in a direct line.

Rassovat (the name of this village) was formerly respectable for its extent and population, and the ruins of several hundred houses which surround it, made me lament its present insignificance. Destitute of every thing that can render life comfortable, it only offers to the view a few

huts, corresponding with the manners of their tenants, which hardly rise above the condition of savage life. They all appear to be half-starved, and are subject to fevers and a variety of other complaints, occasioned by the badness and scantiness of their nourishment. Yet so great is the vanity of mankind, and so desirous, in every situation, is one person of distinguishing himself above another, that even in this obscure corner of the earth, where one would imagine, from the description, that extreme poverty had levelled all notions of distinction, and crushed the aspiring sentiments of emulation, children are seen, with their caps loaded with pieces of money, whilst both themselves and their parents are suffering from the denial of food. Almost every scene of life is capable of furnishing instruction, and never was the folly of ostentation more forcibly conveyed to my mind.

After an infinite deal of trouble, by the authority of our firman, we at last procured a lodging, which consisted of two

adjoining rooms, heated by the same stove. It had not a very inviting appearance; yet we consoled ourselves with the expectation of a sound sleep, and the hope of recruiting our strength by a short remission from the fatigues of travelling. But when the hour of repose came, we found that imagination had been much too fervent, and had only been amusing us with visionary ideas; for the rooms, which were thatched with rushes, swarmed so astonishingly with fleas and muschetoes, that, during the two nights we passed here, I had not so much as one hour's sleep. Nothing but actual experience can enable us to form any just and definite notion of the misery to which mankind is often subjected; nor without the conviction, which that stern monitor uniformly enforces, could I have conceived, that we should one day be reduced to such a deplorable situation, as to lament the privation of our hole on board the Greek vessel, and to confess that there were

abodes on earth, to which that dungeon was a luxury.

We had with us a fat German woman, whom we had hired at Constantinople to cook our victuals; but, God knows, she had but little occupation of that kind. And, in truth, when we had an opportunity of purchasing any provisions, they were not much improved by the assistance of her art; for she was abominably dirty, and there being no kitchen to conceal her operations, we generally knew what we had to expect. But her greatest failing was a strong propensity to thieving; and when I came to inquire for my cloak, which I had committed for a day to her care, it was not to be found. My hat also disappeared about the same time, and, in all likelihood, in the same way, which was another irreparable misfortune, and severely felt.

The morning after our arrival, we took a walk to see the environs of this unfortunate village, and, before we returned, en-

tered into an agreement with the master of a Greek boat to carry us down the river as far as Galatz; for, after the mortifying disappointment we had met with, we felt no inclination to travel any farther by land.

The river Argis falls into the Danube almost opposite to Rassovat, and it was near this spot that the Gothic nation, flying from the furious pursuit of the Huns, implored the clemency of the Roman government. Valens, who at that time was, unfortunately, seated on the throne, after some hesitation, at last consented to receive them into the territories of Thrace. Near a million of these barbarians crossed the river, and laid the foundation of those rapid conquests which accelerated the subversion of the Eastern empire*.

The face of the country, to the west of Rassovat, is much more diversified and interesting than that which we had passed

* See Gibbon's Rom. Emp. vol. iv. p. 382.

through. In many parts, it is very wild and romantic, and, although but badly cultivated, wears the cheerful countenance of fertility, and abounds with agreeable landscapes. The Danube, which flows in a very serpentine direction, and is decorated with several islands which are well stocked with timber, adds considerably to the life and beauty of the surrounding scenery. Some few flocks of sheep are bred on the neighbouring mountains. They produce a fine wool, that is spun, and manufactured into a stout cloth by the inhabitants, and proves a useful commodity in a country, where the climate is cold, and which, having no opportunity of intercourse with other places, is entirely dependent on itself.

One would conceive that in such a situation, where nature has not been very sparing of her bounties; where the soil is generous; where there is no want of fuel; and where the noblest river in Europe is at hand; that there could not be many sound reasons of complaint. Yet the

misery of the people is excessive. Systematic tyranny and oppression have so slackened every nerve of the body, and so cramped every energy of the mind, that they seem totally indifferent about life, and waste their time in the murmurs of idle complaint, or the listlessness of insurmountable inactivity. They used in the evening to assemble round our door, and to relate to us, in the expressive language of deep-felt grief, the hardships to which they had been exposed from the unrelenting cruelty and profligate avarice of their rulers. Their property had been pillaged, their houses dismantled, their persons insulted. Many had fled their homes to save the wreck of their fortune: those who remained had nothing more to lose. The scourge of despotism had been every where applied, and its consequences were every where evident.

The manner in which the people of the country navigate their boats is rather curious. In each boat there is seldom more than one man, who is furnished with a piece

of wood in the form of a battledore, with a long handle (something like the paddle of the Indians) which he shifts about with wonderful dexterity, employing it one moment as an oar, the next as a rudder. The river being wide, and the stream rapid, it was quite an entertainment to observe their different manœuvres, when they wanted to gain the opposite shore. It was a task of no small difficulty; and, in spite of all their skill and good management, before they could accomplish it, they were frequently carried out of a direct line a full quarter of a mile.

In the evening the governor, who is a Constantinopolitan, and an obliging well-bred man, paid us a visit. He was surprisingly communicative for a Turk, and, in the course of conversation, let us into a great part of his history. He had been lately appointed, and informed us that, besides this, eleven other villages were subject to his jurisdiction, and that his principal view in residing here, was to induce those inhabitants, whom the horrours of

war, and the rapacity of his predecessor, had driven away, to return, and rebuild their houses; for, it has been so completely exhausted, that, in its present desolated state, it yields him scarcely any revenue whatever. I have often been astonished at that destructive spirit of domineering over our inferiors, which, if we may judge from the almost continual abuse of power, seems to be a principle inherent in the human breast. Yet it certainly leads us widely astray from the real and honourable pursuits and objects of our happiness. Tyranny may riot in its spoils for a short time, but it must inevitably terminate in ruin. The very strength of despotism undermines its duration; for that excess of power which makes every one tremble, every one must be anxious to subvert. Whereas a just and lenient government, like a temperate climate, yields a regular and increasing supply. It has its foundations in the affections of the people, and every member of the community, being interested in its preservation, cheerfully contributes to its support.

On the 20th, to our great joy, we embarked on board our boat for Galatz, which, had the wind favoured us, we might easily have reached the next morning by day-break. But, as usual, it was directly contrary, and, although we were assisted a good deal by the current, before we had proceeded far, it blew with such violence, that the sailors could no longer manage the boat with their oars. We were therefore obliged to come to anchor. What followed was in exact unison with this ominous outset, and, in this manner, our efforts were frustrated for two tedious days; quitting our anchorage as the wind abated, and having recourse to it again as it increased. These frequent, and, apparently, increasing difficulties, so unnerved every active principle of enjoyment, that we had scarcely power left to admire the diversified landscapes, which opened upon us as we descended the river, and which were certainly capable of raising, in the minds of less dissatisfied spectators, the most pleasurable ideas. Water, land, and wood, blended together, with all

the charms of nature and graces of variety, and viewed through the numerous changes of light and shade which the two great luminaries of the earth were alternately affording, were no common objects; but we were so discontented that we could relish nothing. When our men were tired with rowing, we used to go ashore, and wander in the woods, collecting wild flowers; or sit down among the rushes, and endeavour, by conversation, to mitigate the poignancy of present affliction, and banish the remembrance of past disappointment. We had advanced so little, that we began to apprehend we should be at least a week on the Danube, when, on the 22d in the morning, the storm ceasing, we took advantage of a dead calm, and, by dint of hard rowing, at six o'clock in the evening arrived at Ibrail.

This day was not only propitious to us, but to the whole Turkish empire, it being the last day of the ramazan, and, shortly after we landed, a great many guns were fired, and other demonstrations of

joy took place. As the termination of this fast approaches, the Turks, if the sky is clear, are so impatient, that they ascend to the tops of the highest hills, and, the instant they discover the new moon, make the air ring with acclamations.

The bairam, which is the Turkish Easter, commences the moment the ramazan ends. It lasts for three days, during which the Turks totally dispossess themselves of their usual gravity, and willingly engage in every kind of amusement and dissipation. The streets, bazars, and coffee-houses, are crowded; bonfires are blazing; cymbals, trumpets, and drums are continually sounding; and nothing but sport, and mirth, and jollity, is to be seen. Even many of the women, who have been closely immured the rest of the year, are allowed to quit their apartments, and to partake of the general joy. The first day of this festival is a day of universal pardon and reconciliation, and the Turks go to each other's houses, making presents,

and wishing prosperity. Every good Mussulman is bound at this season to forgive past offences, and to dislodge from his breast all uncharitableness. Friends form stricter alliances, and even enemies shake hands with apparent cordiality. At Constantinople the grand seignor holds a splendid court, where, seated on his throne, he receives the compliments of the great officers of state, after which he gives a sumptuous entertainment in the hall of the divan.

Our sailors, anxious to participate in the pleasures of this holiday, and to celebrate it on shore, apprized us of their intention of leaving the boat early in the morning. We endeavoured to dissuade them from deserting us, but our arguments were vain, for they were pre-determined to go.

This is the most considerable festival among the Turks. They have another called the little bairam, which falls seventy days later; and, on the twelfth day of their third month, they commemorate, with zealous devotion, the birth of their prophet.

Ibrail * is a place of some consequence. It is large, well built, and pleasantly situated; and the castle, which stands on an eminence, is commanded by a pacha of three tails. This is a title of high distinction in Turkey, and derives its origin from the following occurrence. A Turkish general, who had lost all his standards, and whose troops were giving way on every side, suddenly ran up to a horse, and, cutting off his tail, fastened it to the end of a lance, and elevated it in the air. This romantic act, worthy of the times of chivalry, produced such an effect on his soldiers, that

* This is the place from before which Suwarrow was called, by Potemkin, in the month of December 1790, to undertake the storming of Ismael. The siege of that important fortress had lasted seven months, and had created the greatest degree of impatience and mortification in the breast of the Russian favourite. Three days after the arrival of Suwarrow, it was carried by assault, which was one of the most bloody events of that destructive war. The engagement did not last above seven hours, in which time, such was the desperation and animosity with which both armies contended, that 25,000 Turks, and upwards of 4000 Russians, perished.

they instantly rallied, and fought with such determined valour, that they soon retrieved their misfortune, and gained the victory *. Since that period the title has existed, and lances, to the points of which are fixed horses' tails, are carried before those invested with the dignity.

As we purposed remaining here all night, I was desirous of walking up and down the beach till the dawn of day; but being informed that it would be dangerous, as there was a number of villains generally lurking about, I was prevailed on, when it grew dark, to return on board. Sooner, however, than undergo what I had endured the preceding nights from the complicated miseries of confinement, heat, muschetoes, and fleas, I laid myself down on that part of the boat which, in the day-time, was occupied by the rowers, with nothing but some uneven planks for my bed, and the heavens for my covering. This was not, you will say, a very enviable

* See Tournefort, vol. ii. p. 294.

place of rest, yet, comparatively speaking, it had its advantages, and, when contrasted with the post I had abandoned, was even capable of furnishing some comforts.

That you may form a just idea of our sufferings the two preceding days, I will describe that part of the boat which was allotted to passengers. It was about twelve feet long and six wide, and was covered with an awning to keep out the rain. In this confined space, seventeen people, extended on mattresses, were destined to remain, night and day, in the same position. A slave captain, who had been torturing his mind half his life, to contrive the most convenient and economical plan of packing negroes, could not, I suppose, have squeezed us into a smaller compass; and our situation suggested to me, more than once, the hard fate of those unhappy people. At night, when, to exclude the damp air, it was closed at each end, it was just like a furnace, and we were absolutely almost suffocated with each other's breath.

Our sailors returned much earlier than we expected them; and, on the 23d, about ten o'clock in the morning, we anchored at Galatz, joyful beyond measure, as you may easily imagine, to be released from our dreadful state of durance, and fully resolved, that nothing but absolute necessity should prevail on us again to trust to the uncertainty of a water expedition.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XVIII.

Galatz, June 4, 1792.

From the time we had quitted our vessel at Cavarna till our arrival here, we had fared so scantily (sometimes tasting nothing, in the course of the day, but a cup of coffee, without sugar, and a slice of black bread, as hard and heavy as lead) that we were almost famished. The moment, therefore, that we alighted from our boat, listening to the admonitions of Nature, we went in quest of provisions, and had not walked far, before we espied a baker's shop. With joy painted on our countenances, we immediately flew thither, and, purchasing some rolls, rubbed over with oil to give them a polish, made a most delicious repast. I really never remember relishing any thing

so much, which verified the old adage, that " Hunger is the best sauce."

Having satisfied our stomachs, our next inquiry was after our Greek vessel, which, as we had been so many days coming from Cavarna, we were in hopes had got the start of us; but, to our great sorrow and mortification, no tidings of her had been received. This business being also dispatched, we went in search of a house, and, in this respect, we were much more fortunate, for we met with one, which far surpassed our most sanguine expectations. It had been inhabited by the Russian general Kamenskoi, by the celebrated prince Potemkin, and also by prince Repnin, who remained here a week, and, in conjunction with the grand vizir Yousouf, on the 9th of January last, signed the preliminaries of the peace which was shortly after concluded at Yassi. The walls had been lately white-washed, and it was divided into several apartments, in each of which, early in the evening, we spread three or four mattresses, laid our sheets, and, after

having passed twelve nights in our clothes, again undressed ourselves. This, for the first time, was such an indulgence, and so increased our inclination to sleep, that we even set at defiance the depredations of the muschetoes, which, however, has not been the case since. You can scarcely conceive how these little animals torture us, for they pounce upon us in such swarms, that we kill them in vain; and all our exertions are unequal to the task of apparently diminishing their numbers. They absolutely deprive us of half the pleasures of our existence, and often make me think, what insignificant beings we must ourselves be, when our comforts are so dependent, as to lie at the mercy of a diminutive insect.

Galatz is the last place of consequence on the southern side of Moldavia, and, like most of the other towns in the prince's territories, has been desolated by the iron hand of war. It was surrendered to the Russians about two years ago, after an obstinate battle, in which the greatest

part of the Turkish army (consisting of eight thousand men, sent by the Porte to insure a successful resistance) was left dead on the field.

When the Russians entered the town, flushed with victory, and exasperated at the stubborn and unexpected resistance that had been made, they committed cruelties, which would reflect disgrace on any nation, or on any age*. Instead of testifying that respect to which a vanquished enemy is entitled, after having nobly fought in defence of their liberties and their country; instead of rewarding those deeds of valour and patriotism, which, whatever may be the fortune of war, always kindle, in the bosom of a true soldier, the generous sentiments of compassion and esteem; the licentiousness of the troops was suffered to rage without restraint. The four corners of the town were fired; the women were torn from the protection of their

* Kamenskoi, who led on the Russian troops, was, even among the Russians, noted for barbarity.

fathers and husbands; many of the inhabitants were wantonly massacred in cold blood; the churches were broken open, plundered, and otherwise profaned*; in short, every outrage, both on decency and humanity, was committed, and a scene was exhibited too black for any pen to paint. How shocking is war when it is thus prosecuted! If it be a necessary evil, let it at least be deplored as a dreadful alternative; let it be waged with some sense of honour, and some principle of feeling; and let not the character of man be degraded by a barbarous delight in crimes which should be estranged from his heart.

Shortly after our arrival, a Greek accosted us, and politely offered his services, which we readily accepted. He has since constantly attended us, and, being of a loquacious disposition, he soon acquainted us with every anecdote and occurrence of his life. During the war he had deserted his country, and fought, with various suc-

* Some of the churches were even turned into butchers' shops.

cess, under the Russian banners. He took great delight in boasting of his achievements; in shewing the scars which he had received; and enumerating the perils from which he had escaped. Often have I wondered, that his offended countrymen, who sometimes listened to his recital, did not rise against him, and put a period to his insolence and his baseness, by planting their daggers in his heart. The exasperation would almost have excused the mode of revenge, and it could hardly have been considered as a dishonourable offering at the altar of injured and insulted patriotism. Though in a manner an uninterested auditor, I felt a kind of horrour kindle within me, whenever he expatiated on this hateful theme. He completely exhausted my patience, and irritated my feelings; for I cannot help detesting the wretch, who rejoices in the misfortunes of his native land, and is designedly instrumental in accelerating its ruin. It is the most execrable and unnatural of all crimes, and betrays such a total depravity of heart, such an

entire dereliction of honour, generosity, and sentiment, that no punishment which this world can inflict can be commensurate to the iniquity of such atrocious guilt.

This renegado, since the cessation of hostilities, has established himself here as an apothecary, and I fancy his stock of knowledge in the art is about equal to his stock of medicines, both very scanty. He amused us, for the first few days, with the relation of several laughable stories; but his fund of wit and anecdote was soon exhausted (which, by the by, is generally the case with story-tellers), and we now find his company extremely dull and tedious. He is, however, of a gay and active disposition, and, as he appears to be desirous of diverting us as much as he can, he is certainly entitled to our thanks.

When he perceived that his conversation no longer engaged our attention, he collected a band of fiddlers and dancers, whom he has frequently brought to our house; but I feel so little interested in this pastime, that, since their first exhibi-

tion, I have almost always quitted the room. Their favourite dance, which is neither elegant nor sprightly, is, perhaps, worth describing, as it exhibits a feature of national manners. About a dozen men and women, placed alternately, form a circle, which, as long as the dance lasts, is never broken. They display a variety of antic gestures, and, at stated periods, stretch out their arms over their heads, footing at the same time very clumsily, and making a terrible noise with their heels.

Among the musicians, there is a blind old man, who plays on an instrument, which, I imagine, is of his own invention, for I never saw one like it. Though not a very skilful performer, he is considered as the Orpheus of the place, and every body pays him great respect, and listens to him with the profoundest attention.

Many of the women here form matrimonial alliances at a very early period of life, and there were one morning in our house two married ladies, whose ages together did not amount to four-and-

twenty years. I scarce know which is most deserving of commiseration, the husband or the wife, for it is not possible that much happiness can result from these premature connexions, when reason is still in its infancy, and in all its operations is undecided and weak. And what signify the graces of personal charms, without corresponding endowments of mind, the only qualifications which can secure permanent attachment and real esteem?

A few days ago, I visited the spot where the engagement between the Russians and Turks was fought, and where so many thousands of my fellow-creatures breathed their last. It is an extensive plain, bounded on one side by a hill, from the brow of which there is an interesting view that extends, across the Danube, over a large tract of Bess-Arabia, which, from its appearance, is tolerably fertile. This country is inhabited by the Bujac Tartars, many of whom, like the other wandering tribes, live in villages, composed of houses which are constructed on wheels,

and which, as soon as the forage of any district is consumed, they transport to fresh pastures. It contains, however, several fixed towns, such as Bender * and Belgorod, which are tolerably well peopled.

A field of battle is always a melancholy sight. It immediately inclines the mind to a contemplative mood, and furnishes it with a train of gloomy ideas. We cannot survey it, without wondering at that strange perversion of human intellect, or that irresistible impulse of human passion, which, when a dispute arises, prompts us to spurn at accommodation, and to assert our claim by arms; which hurries us into the ocean of anarchy, disorder, and guilt; and diffuses over the face of the earth desolation, famine, and death. This spot

* The mention of Bender reminds one of the fate of the romantic and unfortunate, but magnanimous, king of Sweden, who, after his defeat at Pultowa, saved himself by flight, and took refuge among the Turks and Tartars, by whom he was kindly received, and, for near four years, hospitably maintained. See Voltaire Hist. de Charles XII.

was peculiarly calculated to excite similar emotions, for the effects of the slaughter were still apparent, and a number of skulls and bones was scattered over different parts, deprived of their funeral rites, and exhibiting an awful memorial of the carnage of the day. What, alas! is the history of mankind?—little more than a dismal recital of battles and murders, of injustice and rapacity, of follies and crimes! These are the themes which engage the pen of the historian, on which he displays the subtlety of argument, the splendour of eloquence, and the fertility of wit; whilst the duties and offices of private life, the triumphs of temperance, the fidelity of friendship, the bounties of benevolence, glide down the stream of oblivion, unrecorded, and almost unobserved.

When we first arrived, the Russians were still in possession of Galatz; but, by the articles of peace, it was ceded to the Turks, who took possession of it on the 28th of last month. The inhabitants are just beginning to recover from their panic,

and to rebuild their houses, the materials of which are wood and plaster.

One district of the town is inhabited by Jews, who carry on a confined commerce, and who, as in other parts, when you want to purchase any thing, ask fully the double of what they can afford, and are willing, to take. What a degrading consideration, that dishonesty should be the most prominent feature in the character of such a numerous and widely diffused people! They meet, however, with their reward, for in every country they are shunned and despised. They are, besides, not unfrequently, the greatest sufferers, for, when we deal with them, we always go cautiously to work, and, fearing to be overreached, even when they reduce their demands to a fair standard, we still suspect they are endeavouring to impose on us, and take our leave without parting with our money. Duplicity and fraud, no doubt, sometimes prosper; but industry, with a good character, will generally, I am convinced, in the end, insure better suc-

cess than any acts to which the ingenuity of deception can resort. I was surprised to find, in their shops several pieces of English shalloons, which are brought all the way from Constantinople, and retailed at an enormous profit.

The provisions, which the country affords, though in no great variety, are abundant and cheap. Some fish is also caught in the river, of which we partake every day, but of what species I cannot inform you. All I can say, is, that what it wants in flavour, it makes up in size, for it is both large and fat. In London it would not perhaps be regarded as a delicacy; but we have been so accustomed to bad fare, that we are not difficult to please.

On the 1st we took a walk to see an extensive lake, a few miles off, which has a communication with the Danube, and the fishery of which is farmed for seven hundred piastres a year. Whilst we were resting on a bank near it, we heard the trickling of water among the rocks, and, on

looking round, discovered an abundant spring. We could not help lamenting it was not nearer Galatz, for the water we get there, as well as the wine (which is a distillation from wormwood) is excessively bad. On our return, being rather fatigued, we determined to explore a new road, by which we hoped to save two or three miles; but we had not gone above half way, when we found ourselves at the entrance of an extensive morass, on the borders of the river, which was so thickly overgrown with high reeds, that we in vain attempted to penetrate them. After exhausting our strength in fruitless exertions, we were glad to find our way back, and regain the original road, for the evening was beginning to close in, and had we persisted much longer, we should, in all probability, have passed the night in the open air.

Our Greek vessel, which we had been so long anxiously looking for, only arrived the day before yesterday. It had been detained at Cavarna, by the contrary wind, a week after we quitted it,

and had required the remainder of the time to ascend the Danube; so that, all circumstances considered, we should have been worse off, had we remained on board.

We dined that day, according to appointment, with the new governor, who, as far as I can judge, is as little adapted for the office as Sancho was. Still, had he possessed Sancho's humour, we should have been satisfied with him, for he would then have diverted us with his conversation; but he is as dull an animal as I ever met with, and scarcely opened his lips. His only recommendation is his good-nature; a quality, however, which, unless united with good-sense, has but few attractions, and can insure a man, at most, but negative praise; because, possessing no powers of discrimination, it arises entirely from want of discernment, and receives, with the same indifference, the most opposite impressions. Almost every thing was brought to table which the country and season afford: we ought not therefore to complain of the badness of the entertainment;

but, what was unpardonable, the linen was so dirty, that we did not venture to make use of our napkins. Such are the notions which the Greeks have of cleanliness and propriety! Many dishes, the materials of which I could not discover, were served up, and, when removed, were replaced by others as undefinable. Every thing, indeed, had such a filthy, slovenly, disgusting appearance, that, notwithstanding the profusion of viands, and the stimulations of hunger, I lost my appetite without eating. The governor's sons, out of compliment, waited on us, and, during the time of dinner, some musicians were stationed behind us, who were miserable bawlers and scrapers, and had no mercy on our ears.

The Greeks, like the Turks, at meals, do not, ordinarily, provide themselves or their guests with knives and forks, but, when they help any body, put their hands into the dish, and tear off a piece with their fingers. In the course of the dinner, I had the mortification of seeing several fowls undergo this barbarous method of

dissection. A bason and ewer are, indeed, always sent round before they sit down to table, when every person washes his hands, a necessary precaution where they are employed in such purposes. At the houses of people of consequence, you are presented with silver vessels, and richly embroidered towels to dry yourself.

In the suit of the Greek governor, there is a person who is appointed to superintend the education of his children, and who, however well calculated he may be for such an office from the extent of his erudition, on the score of morality, is certainly very deficient. This fellow is extremely fond of cards, and as we frequently play, for want of a better amusement to beguile the heaviness of time, when we first arrived, he generally managed to be of the party. But we have detected him in the act of cheating so often, that we now decline the favour of his company. It was, to be sure, at a round game that he chose to exercise his talents, at which, even amongst

many individuals in England, I am sorry to say, these deceptions are professed to be considered as innocent recreations. For my part, I never regarded them in that venial light; and I conceive it to be a principle, highly pernicious and degrading, for any one, who has a proper regard for honour, or respect for himself, to lay down that as a rule of conduct, by which he is benefited, and another person injured. It may, perhaps, be alleged, that the benefit and the injury are of so trifling a nature, and are felt in such a slight degree by either party, that it is a matter of mere indifference, which is the sufferer. It is not, however, the injury, but the principle, that I object to; and, if the temptation be small, the excuse is less pardonable, as less exertion is requisite to subdue it. Why then should we endeavour to silence the murmurs of conscience by flying to the subterfuges of sophistry, and allow ourselves to palliate the motive, because the mischief is not severe? or why, even in trifles, should we depart from those sound

and laudable precepts, which, in points of greater moment, would insure everlasting infamy and contempt? These foolish distinctions certainly tend to vitiate the inclinations, and to estrange us from those rules of decorum and integrity which are the absolute maintenance of society. It is not by any sudden and impetuous shocks, that a mind, naturally well disposed, is corrupted; but by those insensible and deceitful operations of vice, which wear the mask of innocence, and gradually insinuate themselves into favour; which neither create alarm, nor awaken suspicion, till they have made a fatal progress in our affections; till they have sapped the very foundation of virtue, and contaminated every motive of action and thought. The documents of morality are, however, sufficiently clear; and it requires no great extent of capacity to prove, or to comprehend, that an act of deception is an act of dishonesty. Those, therefore, whose sentiments of honour are so relaxed, as to allow them, without repugnance, to cheat

at cards, must be of a mean and sordid disposition; and, if they are restrained from the commission of crimes of a greater magnitude, it can only be from the dread of chastisement or retaliation.

This day has been employed in making preparations for our departure, which I ardently hope will take place to-morrow; for Galatz has nothing to recommend it, neither the beauty of the country, nor the manners of its inhabitants. They are all Greeks, and, considering the short interval which has elapsed since their misfortunes, the life which they lead is singular. Their chief occupations are singing, dancing, fiddling, and drinking. Even those who keep shops are so addicted to idleness, that they shut them up at an early hour, and are frequently absent in the middle of the day. These thoughtless people are carried away by an attachment to dissipation and pleasure, which no misfortunes can stifle or control. They will pursue them in spite of every obstacle. The fascinating enjoyments of

love or wine, or the more trivial amusements of dance or song, can, whilst they last, erase from the tablets of recollection the galling chains of power, or the vexatious tyranny of avarice. Gaiety is, no doubt, an enviable possession. It is delightful to feel in ourselves: it is delightful to behold in others. There are few dispositions of temper which so strongly fascinate the imagination, or more easily communicate themselves to the heart. Yet there are surely situations which ought, at least, to moderate its influence; and, when we see it indulged to excess among the miseries of oppression, or the ruins of desolation, we are not disposed to cherish a very high regard for its votaries.

Moldavia is, on the whole, a fertile country, diversified with hill and valley, well watered with rivers, and produces grain and wine, and an abundance of honey and wax. It once formed a part of the splendid empire of the Chagans, and, in later days, has experienced many violent revolutions, having been overrun several

times, in the course of the two last centuries, by the Poles and Russians. At present, it is governed by a prince, who purchases his appointment of the grand seignor, at an exorbitant price, which, however, does not secure him the enjoyment of it; for he is generally deposed before the expiration of many years, to make way for a new bidder. The inhabitants, who are Christians, acknowledge the Greek patriarch, and have the honour of ranking the illustrious prince Cantemir, the Turkish historian, among their countrymen. It is still well peopled, and contains some considerable cities, of which Yassi is the foremost in rank.

We did not forget the 4th of June after dinner, but drank the king's health, in a bumper of the best wine that money could procure. It was not, to be sure, very capital in itself; but the toast imparted to it a flavour which enhanced its value. Englishmen, whilst at home, are so familiarized with the blessings of a good king and a free constitution, that

they frequently appear to be indifferent about their possession; but when they are in foreign parts, where circumstances are continually arising which lead them into investigation, and dispose them to draw comparisons between the advantages which they enjoy, and those which obtain in other countries, they feel a new train of ideas enlighten the mind, and a new train of emotions animate the heart; and when any particular day arrives, which places these various sensations in a full point of view, and calls them into the plenitude of action, they are as much surprised at their past apathy as they are delighted with their present sensibility. One of the great advantages, indeed, which accrues to Englishmen from travelling is, that, if they have any observation whatever, they are, as they extend their knowlege and inquiries, always forcibly impressed with the superiority of their own government, and always return to their native land with an additional partiality and veneration for those laws, which se-

cure to them the invaluable treasure of liberty, and invest them with privileges, which no other modern people has had the spirit and perseverance to contend for, or the good fortune to acquire.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIX.

Buchorest, June 14, 1792.

It was necessary to make so many preparations for our journey from Galatz, that we did not get away till late on the 5th.

Our waggons formed a very respectable caravan. They were twelve in number, and were drawn by ninety horses*. We had twenty postillions to conduct them, and one of the prince of Moldavia's officers, who had been sent to us on application, attended us as far as Fokshan, where we arrived on the 7th in the evening.

* Mr. Vanderschroef transported a considerable quantity of merchandize from Galatz to Buchorest, which was the reason of our having occasion for so many waggons and horses.

Notwithstanding we had with us such a numerous train of men and horses, our travelling expences through this country were very trifling. Between Smyrna and Constantinople, on the contrary, we found every thing excessively dear, which, however, may be easily accounted for, from the number of European travellers who frequent that road, and who have introduced many of those charges to which they have been accustomed in their own countries.

This route was considerably out of our way; but Vanderschroef, whose hopes were always preposterous, had imagined that the prince would defray his expences, and, on that account, had insisted on this irrational plan. He found, however, when an explanation took place, that he had been mistaken in his calculation, and I was not displeased, when I heard of his disappointment. It was a just punishment for his obstinacy and credulity, which were a continual source of vexation, inconvenience, and delay, to the whole party.

The road, leading from Galatz to Fokshan, is tolerably good; but the villages we passed through were miserable in the extreme, and had all suffered, more or less, from the inhumanity of the Russian troops. The inhabitants were wretchedly clothed, and the only provisions, with which they could supply us, were bad bread and a few eggs: even these, we could not procure in abundance. We found the climate cold and inconstant, the weather generally changing two or three times a day, and the face of the country, in most parts, resembles that of Bulgaria, being very naked and level, and consisting chiefly of pasture land.

On the 7th, in the morning, we crossed the Serret, and stopped to dine at a village called Surai, which, though composed of but a few huts, possesses a situation that does credit to the taste of its founder. Near it there is a delightful little wood, refreshed by several limpid streams, and abounding with beautiful shrubs, and a great variety of wild flowers, some of

which I have collected, and will shew to you on my return. I think you will admire them as much as many of the plants in our hot-houses, which are reared with so much care, and cultivated at so great an expence.

Fokshan is a large borough, and is remarkable for standing in the two principalities of Moldavia and Walachia. A rivulet, which runs nearly through its centre, forms the boundary of these two provinces, whose princes regard each other with mutual jealousy, and exact the most rigid observation of their respective prerogatives. As an instance of the foolish extent to which this point of privilege is carried: If a man, in one district, commit any crime whatever, and, by passing the rivulet, can effect his escape into the other, before the magistrates can secure him, his person is inviolable. This, it must be owned, is a most unwarrantable and impolitic custom, the more especially as the two provinces, though not under the same government, appertain to the same empire. Even if

they were not united by any such close connexion, the observance of a practice so immoral in its tendency, and so mischievous in its consequence, would be still liable to much reprobation. It might, in some measure, be extenuated; but it could not be justified: for no country should hold out an encouragement to vice, by affording it protection; but, on the contrary, should exert its utmost power and influence in bringing to justice that offender, who has violated his duty as a citizen, and grievously transgressed those fundamental laws of society which it is evidently the interest of every community vigilantly and strictly to maintain.

Fokshan is also an interesting spot, on account of a dreadful battle which was fought under its walls in the month of August 1789, between the Russians and Germans on one side, and the Turks on the other. The Turkish army, which was in considerable force, had been sent by the grand vizir Hassan, under the command of the pacha Mehmet, in the view of sur-

prising, and cutting off, the Imperialists, who were encamped in the neighbourhood of this town: but the sudden arrival of Suwarrow, not only prevented the realization of his hopes, but terminated in the total defeat of the Ottomans*.

I neglected to mention, in its proper place, a circumstance which occurred on our journey to Rassovat, and which diverted us exceedingly. One day, whilst our oxen were grazing, a wrestling match took place between two of our guides. It was no sooner proposed, than our heroes sprang from the turf on which they were reposing, and consented to display their strength and agility. In a minute they were stripped, and the contest, which

* The Austrians, on this occasion, were commanded by the prince of Saxe-Coburg, the Russians by the inexorable, but invincible, Suwarrow. Suwarrow, who was posted about ten German miles off, at the earnest solicitation of the Austrian general, who was in a most critical position, arrived by a forced march, which was performed with wonderful celerity. The day after the junction was effected, the Turks were attacked, and defeated.

proved a very keen one, immediately began. Both the champions seemed to exert themselves with all their might, and to dispute the prize of honour with exalted notions of its value. They were, however, so well matched, both in point of alertness and nerve, that notwithstanding the convenient hold which was furnished by the immensity of their breeches (for, in spite of the fashionable phrase, it would certainly be a perversion of terms to call them *small clothes*), a long and obstinate struggle ensued, before one of the opponents was overset. The fortune of the day was then decided, and, parting friends, they reassumed their gravity, returned to their respective occupations, our oxen were again yoked, and we proceeded on our journey.

Fokshan, for Turkey, is a neat town, and the country, which surrounds it, is diversified and fertile. On the Walachian side, which is in a high state of cultivation, there is a mountain, at the distance of about four leagues, on which such a

prodigious quantity of wine is grown, that although it is sold at the low rate of two paras * the oke †, and the prince claims but ten per cent. on the gross amount, it yields him an annual income of one hundred thousand piastres. This luxuriant spot also furnishes an abundance of excellent timber, which is an article of extensive traffic, being carried in boats to Galatz, and thence in larger vessels to Constantinople, where it is bought up for the purpose of making masts. The Russians are the principal purchasers and consumers of the wine.

On the 9th, in the morning, a pacha of three tails, who had been long expected, passed through this town. He entered it with great pomp, attended by a gorgeous train of six hundred horsemen, with colours flying, and music playing, amidst the silent and solemn admiration

* A para is a little more than a halfpenny, twenty of them making a shilling.

† An oke is 2¾lb. Both wine and oil pay duty by the weight.

of the trembling inhabitants. His band of martial music was composed of drummers and fifers, and a few players on the cymbal, who had no notion of the powers of harmony, and whose chief merit consisted in making a great noise. The carriages, which contained his women, were closely covered, and supported by mules, to which they were fastened by means of long poles. He himself was seated in a clumsy coach, and had all that marked contempt and self-sufficiency in his countenance, which a consciousness of authority, added to a want of merit, generally imprints; but it is the fortune of rank to receive the tribute of outward respect from the bulk of mankind, and flattery adheres as naturally to power as envy to merit. He had been three weeks on the road from Buchorest, diffusing horrour, and exciting concealed detestation, wherever he passed. Terrour preceded his appearance, and, to compliment him, the Christian standards were displayed, and a great crowd of people was collected to do him homage.

The pachas, on their march, frequently lay waste a whole province. They commit acts of the most shameful plunder; levy enormous contributions; and seize on provisions for their own use, without ever thinking of offering the most trifling compensation. So entirely is the people at their disposal, that they have nothing to do but to tremble and submit. These petty tyrants are invested with an uncontrolled power of life and death, which they never allow to remain long in inaction; but, exercising it according to the fluctuations of their interest, they alternately render it the instrument of misery and destruction. Unacquainted with the dictates of mercy and benevolence, no appeal to humanity is listened to; but prerogatives, which, if unabused, and impartially administered, are calculated to contribute to the peace, the security, and the happiness, of society, are made subservient to the most brutal passions, and are, by the total dismission of mildness and justice, converted into the scourges of the human race.

Yet what can be the enjoyments of the most absolute despot? He may, it is true, inspire fear; he may enforce submission; he may desolate a country, and satiate his cruelty, or his revenge, by the distresses of its inhabitants; he may plunder without resistance, and torture without reproof: all this, nay more, he may accomplish with impunity. But can happiness be derived from the practice of vice or the diffusion of woe? Is there no such thing as an accusing conscience? Is there no such sensation as mental disquietude? Can a man fly from the bitter reproaches of his heart? Can he arrest the hated activity of his thoughts? Can he completely extirpate the sentiments of feeling, and deaden the operations of reflection? No! These various principles will, at times, intrude, and inform him how base, how mean, how despicable, he is.

How the false lustre of such a station is obscured by the virtues of the honest, upright man; whose good offices are proportioned to his means; whose bosom

is warmed with the pure emotions of generosity; who glories in the extension of benevolence; and who knows no pleasure so exquisite, as that of imparting consolation and relief! *His* happiness is uniform; *his* satisfaction is solid; and, although not clothed in the purple, or armed with the authority, of tyrants, he possesses the love, the esteem, the veneration, of his fellow-creatures. O ye great! profit by the example of those whom you consider as your inferiors; be convinced that you are no more, in the eye of God, than other men; learn therefore moderation; and practise virtue.

During our residence at Fokshan, we received frequent visits from the governor of the Moldavian side of the town, who was a polite, well-bred man, and afforded us every assistance in his power. He spoke Italian fluently, and in conversation was intelligent and communicative. He had travelled in the civilized parts of Europe, and had learnt enough of their policy and internal government, to entertain but a

mean opinion of the political maxims, or public institutions, of his own country.

One of the evenings, whilst we were detained here, we went to a Greek christening, the father and other relations of the child having previously waited on us, to beg our attendance, and also, to solicit Madame Vanderschroef to stand godmother, to which she immediately consented. The ceremony, which lasted about an hour, was performed, in the literal Greek, by one of the papas or priests, who read with great solemnity. In point of devotional forms, it, in most respects, resembled the Roman Catholic service on these occasions. The chief difference was, that the Greek ritual requiring immersion instead of sprinkling, the poor little innocent had a complete ducking. It is, indeed, the opinion of many, that immersion, in the primitive ages of the church, was universally practised, and that the custom of sprinkling originated in cold climates, a considerable time after the first establishment of Christianity. To a long list of

names, which the Greeks consider as a mark of distinction, that of Madame Vanderschroef was subjoined.

On the eve of our departure, one of the prince of Walachia's officers arrived, who, supplying the place of the Moldavian, attended us to Buchorest. The principal use of these officers, is to procure you lodgings wherever you pass the night; for, in this part of the world, there are no inns, and, without their intervention, you might generally apply for shelter in vain. They, however, manage matters without much ceremony, for, being authorized by the prince to turn any person out of his house, the unfortunate vassal never ventures to disobey the imperious summons. I confess that my heart recoiled at being obliged to have recourse to this barbarous privilege; and although we always endeavoured to satisfy the ejected tenant by the gift of some money, I still thought it a hard lot to be reconciled to, and could not help deploring the necessity of the case. Amongst the most stupid and uninformed, ideas of

property must obtain, and they cannot avoid perceiving, that nature has given them an absolute right over what they have acquired by the labour of their hands. They may be trained to submit to many sufferings and abuses without repining, yet there are proceedings at which they must revolt, which carry with them the legible characters of injustice, and which no mind, however abject, can possibly misapprehend.

Yours, &c.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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